Dressing	Indication	Contraindication	Action
Calcium/Sodium Alginate (e.g., pads, ropes)	Inflammatory to repair phase of healing 1. Burns 2. Shearing/avulsion injuries 3. Cavity wounds Best for clean wounds after initial debridement with:	Wounds with exposed tendon, bone, or moderate to large amounts of necrotic tissue	Highly absorptive Promotes autolytic debridement Has hemostatic properties Encourages epithelialization Promotes granulation
Petroleum impregnated products (e.g., Adaptic)	Early repair phase Clean, healthy wound with minimal granulation bed Wound with:	Delays epithelialization. Avoid use of this product after granulation tissue fills wound.	Increases wound contraction, but delays epithelialization Absorbs bacteria and exudates
Non-adherent contact pads (i.e., Telfa)	Early-to-mid repair phase when epithelialization begins Best for wounds with: Sanguineous exudate The need for epithelialization or contraction Minor infections Best to use this product after granulation tissue fills wound to promote epithelialization and contraction.	Avoid use in heavily contaminated wounds or those in need of debridement Replace with another contact dressing if hyper-granulation develops	Increases wound contraction Promotes epithelialization Absorbs bacteria and exudates May promote exuberant granulation tissue
Hydrocolloid	Early-to-mid repair phage of healing Best for wounds with: The need for granulation tissue Minimal to moderate exudates Advanced wound contraction Decubital ulcers Burns Cavity wounds Degloving wounds Useful until granulation tissue fills wound, but switch to other dressing when contraction is needed. Replace with another contact dressing if hypergranulation tissue develops.	Wounds with excessive granulation tissue (may cause hyper-granulation) Heavily exudative wounds Infected wounds	Occlusive to semiocclusive Highly absorbent Promotes moist wound healing Promotes autolytic debridement Promotes granulation Increases epithelialization Adhesiveness may reduce contraction May cause hyper-granulation
Hydrogel	Inflammatory, debridement, and repair phages (all stages of wound healing) Best for wounds with: Minimal to moderate exudates Need for granulation tissue, epithelialization, or contraction Dry, sloughing, or necrotic wounds Partial or full thickness wounds Discontinue when granulation tissues fills the wound Best to use on a minimally to moderately exudative wound at any stage of healing (after gross contamination and necrotic tissue has been removed from wound).	Moderately to excessively exudative wounds Wounds with excessive granulation tissue Infected wounds	Absorbs fluid Keeps wound moist (donates moisture) Permits autolytic debridement Increases collagenase activity in burns (promoting debridement) Promotes granulation and epithelialization Promotes contraction May promote exuberant granulation tissue
Polyurethane foam	Inflammatory or repair phase of healing Deep wounds with mild to moderate exudates Decubital ulcers Can be used during any stage of healing. Best used after granulation tissue fills wound to encourage epithelialization and contraction	Wounds with poor granulation bed	Absorbent Acts as a filter, stent or cushion Promotes epithelialization and contraction Reduces granulation