

Ossur® Rigid Dressing (ORD)

General Description

One of the initial steps in preparing your residual limb for a prosthesis is with the use of a rigid dressing. The purposes of the rigid dressing are to:

- 1) Immobilize the limb in order to prevent knee flexion contractures.
- 2) Prevent an increase in the amount of fluid or edema in the limb.
- 3) Keep the residual limb at a more consistent volume.
- 4) Protect the limb from bumps or falls.
- 5) Allow for easy access to the limb for inspection and cleaning.

Application – It is advisable to use two people when applying the rigid dressing.

- 1) The rigid dressing may be applied over wound dressings immediately after surgery or used with a shrinker or ace wrap. If used with a shrinker, please go to [Below Knee Shrinker](#) for application and use instructions (See Figure 1).
- 2) Open and lay out the rigid dressing so that it is lying flat (See Figure 2).
- 3) Place the residual limb on top of the rigid dressing with the end of the limb all the way to the midpoint of the rigid dressing (See Figure 3).
- 4) Fold the small bottom side flaps up along each side of the limb (See Figure 4).
- 5) Fold the outer sides of the bottom section of the rigid dressing under the limb up along both sides of the limb, thereby cradling the limb. (See Figure 5). It is important to keep the small bottom flaps up close against the limb during this step
- 6) Fold the remaining section of the rigid dressing on top of the limb, overlapping the outer edges down over the edges of the bottom section. (See Figure 6).
- 7) Attach the middle Velcro strap around the top of the rigid dressing. Then attach the bottom strap and finally the top strap. (See Figure 7). The top strap should sit above the patient’s knee.
- 8) Close the blue valve by turning clockwise (See Figure 8). Attach the pump to the valve (See Figure 9). Pump the handle of the pump until it cannot be pumped any longer (See Figure 10).
- 9) Remove the pump and apply the valve cap. The rigid dressing will have become a hard shell around the residual limb (See Figure 11). Readjust the Velcro straps by tightening from the bottom strap to the top.

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- 10) Wear the rigid dressing at all times, day and night, except when you are bathing yourself or the limb is being inspected. When being inspected, undo the Velcro straps and lift the limb out of the dressing (See Figure 12).
- 11) To reapply the rigid dressing or if the rigid dressing has become loose around the limb, place the limb back into the rigid dressing and attach the straps. Remove the valve cap and turn the valve counterclockwise for a few seconds to soften the rigid dressing slightly (See Figure 13), then close the valve and use the pump to remove the excess air. Readjust the Velcro straps by tightening from the bottom strap to the top.



Figure 1

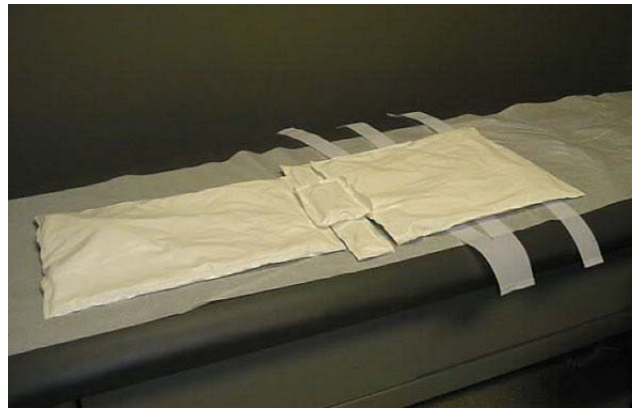


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

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Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

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Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

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Cleaning and Maintenance

The rigid dressing can be wiped clean with a moist cloth and disinfected with alcohol solution if needed. Do NOT machine wash the rigid dressing.

The rigid dressing can only be used for one patient. When finished with the rigid dressing, it should be disposed of appropriately.

Follow the manufacturer’s directions to clean the shrinker. Most recommend hand or machine wash on gentle cycle with mild soap. Machine dry on low or hang to dry.

Tips and Problem Solving

The rigid dressing should not be worn directly against the skin.

Minimal bandaging should be used to obtain the best results from the rigid dressing.

If the rigid dressing begins to feel loose, it must be removed and reapplied. Before reapplying, the blue valve must be opened by turning counterclockwise. This will release the pressure, making the rigid dressing soft and pliable.

Contact your prosthetist if you have any questions or problems.

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