COMBICAST- USER’S TIPS

Padding

1. Do not use gloves when applying the stockinette and 3M™ Microfoam™ Surgical Tape.
2. When preparing stockinette for hand splints only cut a 1mm hole for the thumb. The hole can be enlarged on application of the stockinette to the hand if necessary. Too large a hole will not facilitate protection below the thumb resulting in a new piece of stockinette having to be prepared.
3. Apply two layers of stockinette as padding and ensure all creases are removed. Two layers of stockinette are applied to prevent resin strike through onto the patient’s skin and to aid removal by allowing scissors to run between layers and not against skin.
4. For removable applications, a sausage of stockinette of suitable width should be placed under the tubular stockinette to produce an application with a larger than usual circumference. This will facilitate a comfortable overlap of the edges of the cast/splint on reapplication.
5. Microfoam tape can be used to pad a bony prominence that may come into contact with the splint or cast. Microfoam tape should be applied sticky side down onto the stockinette prior to the application of the casting tape.

Application of Casting Tapes

7. The setting or handling time of the casting tape can be varied by using the following appropriate dip techniques:

Casting Tape Dip Techniques

As 3M casting tapes are moisture activated, breaking the integrity of the sealed foil pouch activates the setting process through exposure to ambient room humidity. Any additional water speeds up the process proportionate to how much is added.

- Immerse the roll of tape in room temperature water (25°C). Three firm squeezes of the roll while it is submerged will give a set time of approximately 3 minutes.
- To lengthen the set time, immerse the roll and remove it immediately without squeezing. This technique will give a set time of approximately 4 minutes.
- To give maximum working time (6mins), the roll should be applied dry and wet after application is complete.
When using 3M casting tapes, there will be a decrease in slipperiness if the roll is not squeezed while submerged in water. Warmer water shortens the setting time while cooler water lengthens it. If the roll is immersed in water above (27°C), an increase in exotherm may be noted.

8. In most indications, only part of a roll of Scotchcast Premium tape is required to produce an appropriately sized splint. The residual roll can be kept for a subsequent application. To do this, the user should take the Scotchcast Premium tape pouch of appropriate width and cut it just below the heat seal rather than tearing. The roll should be removed with dry gloved hands. The required length for splinting can be cut off with scissors and the remainder of the roll replaced in the pouch. All air should be squeezed out of the pouch and the opening twisted closed (like a toffee paper!). This technique will minimise moisture contact with the uncured resin and allow the roll to remain soft for up to two days. Note - the same technique can be used with Soft Cast tape. 3M Health Care has recently introduced re-sealable ziplock pouches, designed specifically for this purpose.

9. Ensure the limb is in the correct position prior to applying the casting tape. If position changes during application, creases in the material will occur.

10. Apply the first roll of Soft Cast tape onto the stockinette such that it produces a double base layer. This can be done by spirally wrapping the tape such that it overlaps by a half to two thirds of the previous turn. This roll should be applied dry to ensure the stockinette sticks to the base layer and with minimum tension to facilitate ease of removal. Note - when applying casting materials dry, endeavour to minimise contact of glove with material (very sticky) i.e. put fingers over the end of plastic core when applying tape.

11. When splinting with Scotchcast Premium tape the splint should be 3 or 4 layers thick. More layers can be added where extra strength is needed for e.g. with a larger than average patient.

12. The Scotchcast Premium tape splint may be applied either wet or dry.

13. The final roll of Soft Cast tape may be applied either wet or dry again with minimum tension.

14. To enhance lamination between layers, the completed application should be overwrapped with a wet elasticated bandage. The bandage should be left in place for five minutes. Any moulding of the application should be done at this point prior to the material setting.
**COMBICAST- USER’S TIPS**

**Removal of 3M™ Soft Cast Tape / 3M™ Scotchcast Premium Casting Tape Combicasts**

When removing the combicast with scissors:

15. Always cut through the Soft Cast tape with the scissors at an angle of 45 degrees. This will mitre the edges and enhance patient comfort should the application need to be reapplied.

16. Run the scissors between the layers of stockinette and not against the patient’s skin.

17. Always ensure the scissors jaw is parallel to the skin.

18. Pull bottom layer of stockinette tight to stop it gathering under the jaw of the scissors.

19. If you encounter a “tight spot”, pinch the Soft Cast tape just ahead of the scissors - this will have the effect of lifting the cast off the skin making it easier for the scissors to move forward.

**Edging of Removable Casts/Splints**

20. To ensure the stockinette stays laminated to the casting tape at the edge of the application, it may be edged with 3M™ Adheban™ Cast Edging Tape.

**Removal of Resin from Hands/Scissors**

21. Soft Cast tape resin will peel off.

22. Scotchcast Premium tape uncured resin may be wiped off with alcohol or acetone. Cured resin should be soaked in warm water prior to swabbing with alcohol or acetone.