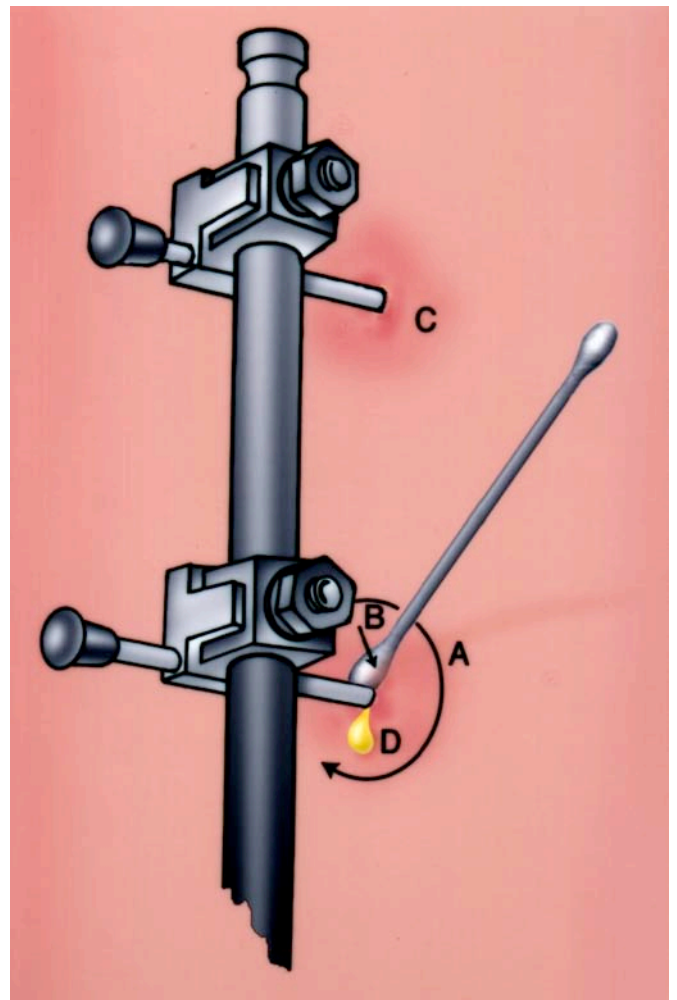


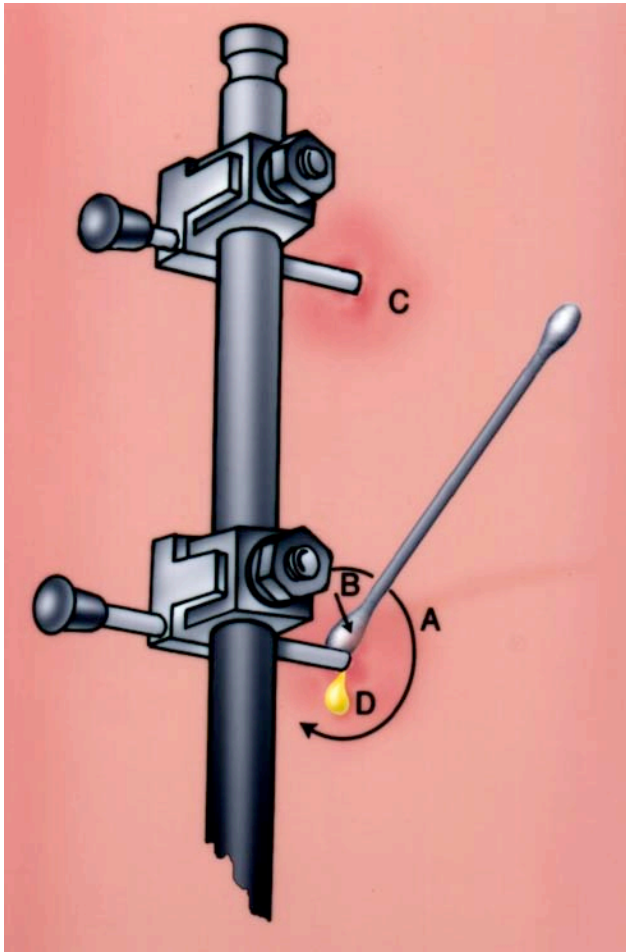
EXTERNAL FIXATOR PIN SITE CARE

An external fixator has been applied to hold the bone in place as it heals. Daily cleaning of the pin sites is extremely important to prevent infection of the skin and bone.

Pin Site Care

1. Pin site care should be done daily unless otherwise specified by your doctor.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water before beginning.
3. Gather all materials you will need:
Hydrogen Peroxide, cotton-tip applicators, gauze pads
4. Remove old dressings and dispose of them properly.
5. Wash hands again.
6. Look closely at each pin site.
7. Use one cotton-tip applicator per pin site and clean around each site using a circular motion. (A)
8. Push the skin down around the pin site as it has a tendency to “creep up”. (B)
9. Work hard to remove all crusting and dried drainage.
10. Clean up and dispose of all the used supplies.
11. Wash your hands with soap and water.





Signs of Infection:

- Temperature over 101°
- Redness, warmth, or swelling at the pin site (C)
- Thick white, yellow, or green drainage (D)
- Bad smell from the pin site
- Severe pain at the pin site

Call the office at 933-8588 if any of these signs develop.

Most pin tract infections can be treated with antibiotics taken in pill or liquid form.

Refractory drainage and increasing cellulitis may require hospitalization and surgery to evaluate for deep infection or pin loosening

 Orthopedics for Kids

2660 10th Avenue South • POB 1 • Birmingham, AL 35205 • 205-933-8588

All of the content and images on this Brochure are protected by United States and International copyright law and may not copied, scanned, reproduced, published or altered in any way without written permission.
© John T. Killian, MD 2009