

## Silver Nitrate for Granuloma

### What is a granuloma?

A granuloma is new tissue that grows in or around the tracheostomy stoma. The granuloma:

- Has no feeling.
- Has a lot of very small blood vessels called capillaries.
- Is pink and moist and may bleed if irritated.
- Can block the tracheostomy stoma opening if it grows too big.



Granulomas can form due to inflammation during healing. This is normal.

### How is it treated?

A granuloma has no nerve endings, and therefore, no feeling, so treatment with silver nitrate does not hurt when done as directed. Silver Nitrate sticks can be used to help the granuloma shrink in size. Silver nitrate is a chemical that will react to mucosal surfaces (wet surfaces of the body such as the inside of the mouth, nose, etc). It will stop growth of a granuloma. It can be used once a day until the granuloma is gone. Call your doctor if granuloma is not gone in 7 days.

### Supplies

- 1 Silver Nitrate stick
- 1 to 2 cotton swabs
- Gloves can be used to protect your hands from accidental stains

### Applying the Silver Nitrate



**NOTE:** Put Silver Nitrate on after doing routine tracheostomy care. Make sure the area is dry before putting it on.

1. Take the Silver Nitrate stick out of the package. Do not let the medicated tip touch any skin or mucosal surfaces
2. Dab the medicated tip of the Silver Nitrate stick on the dry granuloma tissue. Do not let the tip touch nearby skin or tissue.
3. Take a clean, dry cotton swab and roll it over the same area to absorb extra Silver Nitrate.
4. Wipe any extra Silver Nitrate from the skin.

### Applying silver nitrate (continued)

5. Let the skin air dry for 10 minutes (but replace the trach if needed if it has been taken out). Recheck the skin and wipe away any Silver Nitrate if needed.
6. **Do not** put any dressing under the tracheostomy tube for about 4 to 5 hours after applying the Silver Nitrate.

### Special information

- If Silver Nitrate touches the skin, it may burn or irritate the skin. It could also cause tissue injury.
- To prevent tissue injury, always wipe extra Silver Nitrate from the skin and let the skin dry after putting it on.
- Silver Nitrate that drains on the nearby skin may stain it a dark color. This will go away. It can take up to a week for the stain to go away.
- Check the size of the granuloma and the skin around the tracheostomy with daily care.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if:

- The skin around the stoma opens up, gets red, or peels after putting on Silver Nitrate.
- The granuloma does not start to shrink.
- The granuloma is not gone in 7 days.
- Your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**