



Skin and Wound Product Information Sheet

Acetic Acid	
Classification	Antiseptic Wound Cleanser
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution of Acetic Acid 5% (white vinegar) and sterile water needs to be compounded, as per order, to make one of three strengths; 0.25%, 1% and 3%. • Used as an antiseptic cleanser for a visible wound bed/peri-wound skin. • Used to manage peri-ostomal pseudoverrucous skin lesions associated with an urostomy.
Indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the direction of a Physician/NP/NSWOC/Wound Clinician for wounds with signs and symptoms (S&S) of local wound infection due to Pseudomonas specifically. • Under the direction of a NSWOC for prevention or treatment of peri-stomal pseudoverrucous lesions
Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discomfort or pain may occur when solutions with a higher strength are used and/or towards the end of the compress time.
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use for clients with known sensitivity or allergy to acetic acid. • Do not combine with other cleansers/solutions (e.g., Dakin solution, iodine). • Do not use for irrigation of undermining, sinus/tunnel.
Compounding Concentrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Page 2 for 'recipe'. • If commercially-prepared sterile water not available then see Appendix A of Wound Cleansing: Procedure for how to make sterile water in the home.
Compounding Acetic Acid Solution	Key Points
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sterilize a large, clean bottle which has a screw-top cap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the cap; place the bottle and cap in a pot of water, ensure that the bottle is completely covered. Bring the water to the boil and boil for 15 minutes. Carefully remove the bottle and cap from the hot water and allow to cool before handling. 2. Review the client-specific order for the strength to be compounded and refer to the table on page 2 for the 'recipe'. 3. As per the order and recipe, add to the sterilized, empty bottle the correct amounts of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinegar • Sterile Water (commercially prepared or home prepared) 4. Screw on the cap and shake gently to mix. 5. Date and label the bottle. Store away from direct sunlight and in a cool place. 	<p>Use open bottles of commercially prepared or prepared-at-home sterile water within 24 hours.</p> <p>Use prepared Acetic Acid Solution within 24 hours.</p>
To Apply for Wound Care	
<p>Cleanse the wound and peri-wound skin with Normal Saline using irrigation tip catheter/syringe and/or 2x2 solution-soaked gauze(s). Remove as much loosened slough/necrotic tissue as possible.</p> <p>Pour the Acetic Acid solution into the dressing tray. Soak several 4X4 gauze dressings in the solution.</p> <p>Remove the gauze dressing(s) from the solution, wring out with forceps until damp. Apply to wound and to the peri-wound skin and leave for 30 -60 seconds. Remove and reapply second compress and leave for 5 -10 minutes.</p> <p>Thoroughly cleanse the wound and the peri-wound skin with Normal Saline-soaked gauzes to remove any loosened debris.</p> <p>Complete dressing as per wound treatment plan.</p>	<p>Discomfort or pain may occur when solutions with a higher strength are used and/or towards the end of the compress time.</p>
To Apply for Peri-Stomal Care	
<p>Cleanse/irrigate wound and the peri-stomal skin with warm water.</p> <p>Pour the Acetic Acid solution into the dressing tray. Soak several</p>	



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<p>4X4 gauze dressings in the solution.</p> <p>Remove the gauze dressing(s) from the solution, wring out with forceps until damp. Apply to wound and to the peri-stomal skin and leave for 20 minutes.</p> <p>Thoroughly cleanse the wound and the peri-wound skin with water-soaked gauzes to remove any loosened debris.</p> <p>Complete dressing as per ostomy management plan.</p>	
Frequency of Application	
<p>Wound Care: up to twice daily for up to 7 to 14 days.</p> <p>Ostomy Care: with each pouching change as needed.</p>	
Expected Outcome	
<p>Signs/symptoms of local wound infection are resolved within 2 weeks.</p> <p>Pseudoverrucous lesions are prevented or resolved.</p>	
For further information, please contact NSWOC/ Wound Clinician	

Compounding Concentrations				
(consider starting with the lowest strength; if not effective then move to a higher strength)				
Solution Volume	Ingredients	0.25% Strength	1% Strength	3% Strength
1000 mL	Acetic Acid 5%	50 mL	200 mL	600 mL
	Sterile Water	950 mL	800 mL	400 mL
	Total Amount	1000 mL	1000 mL	1000 mL
500 mL	Acetic Acid 5%	25 mL	100 mL	300 mL
	Sterile Water	475 mL	400 mL	200 mL
	Total Amount	500 mL	500 mL	500 mL
250 mL	Acetic Acid 5%	12.5 mL	50 mL	150 mL
	Sterile Water	237.5 mL	200 mL	100 mL
	Total Amount	250 mL	250 mL	250 mL

References

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. (2015 December). *Acetic acid for wound care: Clinical effectiveness and guidelines*.
<https://www.cadth.ca/siteault/files/pdf/htis/dec-2015/RB0945%20Acetic%20Acid%20for%20Wounds%20Final.pdfs/def>