




## Skin and Wound Product Information Sheet

<b>GELFOAM for Wound Care</b> (for use for surgical care please refer to vendor information found in the packaging box)	
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Hemostatic Agent</b>
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GELFOAM Sterile Sponge is a medical device intended for use as a hemostatic.</li> <li>GELFOAM is a water insoluble, off-white, non-elastic, porous, pliable product prepared from purified pork Skin Gelatin USP Granules and Water for Injection, USP.</li> <li>It may be cut without fraying and is able to absorb and hold within its interstices, many times its weight of blood and other fluids.</li> </ul>
<b>Indications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GELFOAM Sterile Sponge, used dry or saturated with sterile sodium chloride solution, is indicated as a hemostatic device, when control of capillary, venous, and arteriolar bleeding by pressure and other conventional procedures is either ineffective or impractical.</li> </ul>
<b>Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As GELFOAM absorbs fluid, it may expand and impinge on neighboring structures; therefore when it is placed into cavities or closed tissue spaces, minimal preliminary compression of the sponge is advised and care should be taken to avoid over-packing.</li> <li>In cases of brisk arterial bleeding, the pressure of the flow may prevent the sponge from remaining securely anchored, and bleeding is likely to continue.</li> <li>GELFOAM is not recommended in the presence of infection and should be used with caution in contaminated areas of the body. If signs of infection or abscess develop in an area where GELFOAM has been used, it may be necessary to remove the infected material.</li> <li>Advise client that the product is made from pork</li> </ul>
<b>Contraindications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GELFOAM Sterile Sponge should not be used in closure of skin incisions because it may interfere with the healing of skin edges.</li> </ul>
<b>Formats &amp; Sizes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size 12: 20 mm x 60 mm (12 cm sq)</li> <li>Size 100: 80 mm x 125 mm (100 cm sq.)</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
Application Directions	Rationale
To open envelope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the hands folded into fists, grasp each flap between the thumb and index finger.</li> <li>With a slow, rolling motion, carefully peel back the envelope sides until the sterile inner envelope is exposed.</li> <li>Employing sterile technique, remove sterile inner envelope and sterile sponge.</li> </ul>	Always use sterile technique when handling the product.
GELFOAM should be cut to the minimum size needed to obtain hemostasis.	GELFOAM is absorbed completely with little tissue reaction. This absorption is dependent on several factors i.e. the amount used, degree of saturation with blood or other fluids and the site of use.
GELFOAM may be applied dry or saturated with normal saline solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When applied dry, GELFOAM should be manually compressed before application to the bleeding site.</li> <li>When used with saline, GELFOAM should be soaked in saline then withdrawn, squeezed between gloved fingers to expel air bubbles present in the interstices, replaced in saline, and kept there until needed. It can be used wet or blotted to dampness on gauze before application to the bleeding site.</li> </ul>	Wetting the sponge allows for moulding into specific areas. Compressing/squeezing the sponge maximizes its hemostatic properties. GELFOAM should immediately return to its original size and shape when replaced in the saline. If it does not swell, it should be removed and kneaded vigorously until all air is expelled and it does expand to its original shape when placed in saline.



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<b>To Apply</b>	
<p>GELFOAM should be applied to the bleeding surface and held in place with moderate pressure until hemostasis is attained.</p> <p>Once hemostasis has been achieved carefully remove any excess Gelfoam.</p>	<p>Gelfoam absorbs fluid and will expand; avoid over packing cavities or narrow spaces.</p> <p>Usually, the first application of GELFOAM will control bleeding, but if not, additional applications may be made, using fresh pieces of GELFOAM. It is not necessary to apply suction to GELFOAM, since GELFOAM will draw up blood into its interstices by capillary action</p>
<b>To Remove</b>	
<p>When bleeding is controlled, the pieces of GELFOAM may be left in place; otherwise, bleeding may start again. Since GELFOAM causes little more cellular infiltration than the blood clot, the wound may be closed over it.</p>	<p>When placed in soft tissue, GELFOAM is usually absorbed completely in four (4) to six (6) weeks, without inducing excessive scar tissue. When applied to bleeding nasal, rectal or vaginal mucosa, it liquefies within two (2) to five (5) days.</p>
<b>Frequency of Dressing Change</b>	
N/A	
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	
Hemostasis is achieved.	
<b>For further information, please contact your Wound Clinician.</b>	