

**Specific Question:**

***In patients undergoing minor dermatological procedures, does the application of Savlon antiseptic cream post operatively as opposed to leaving the wound dry, increase the incidence of poor wound healing / delayed wound healing or infection (or poor outcomes in general).***

**Clinical bottom line**

We have been unable to identify evidence for the benefits of the use of Savlon in minor wounds or post-operatively. However, we have also found no evidence to suggest that it is detrimental to wound healing.

**Why is this important?**

Savlon cream has been a fundamental component of many families' first aid boxes for a long time. Savlon is a topical cream or ointment containing the active ingredients Cetrimide and Chlorhexidine and is typically used to prevent infection in open wounds. In addition to its historic use in minor abrasions it has been recommended by dermatologists on occasions following an excision of a lesion. Day to day practice by experienced nurses suggest that wounds do not do well with Savlon applied, therefore it is important to identify evidence that would potentially support its continued use.

**Search timeframe (e.g. 2006-2017)**

Inception of searched databases to April 2017

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 Date: July 2018

**Inclusion Criteria**

	Description	Search terms
<b>Population and Setting</b>	Adults or children who have had a minor dermatological procedure or abrasion from a minor injury	<b>P:</b> Adults (or) Children Excision biopsy Minor surgical
<b>Intervention or Exposure</b>	Savlon cream	<b>I:</b> Savlon cream Cetrimide Chlorhexidine Topical antiseptic ointment
<b>Comparison, if any</b>	Placebo or alternative	<b>C:</b> Placebo Leave wound dry
<b>Outcomes of interest</b>	<b>Primary:</b> effect on healing <b>Secondary:</b> potential infection	<b>O:</b> Healing Delayed healing Poor wound healing Potential infection
<b>Types of studies</b>	RCTs and systematic reviews	(Filtered)

**Routine Databases Searched**

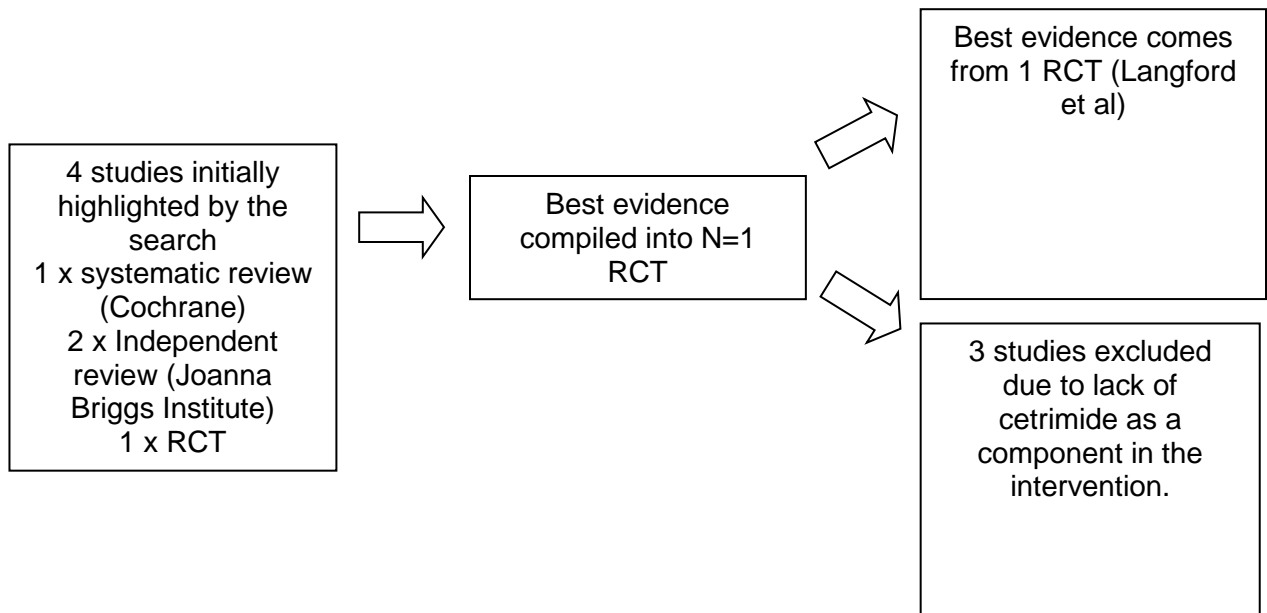
Cinahl, BNI, Embase, Pubmed, Ahmed, Web of Science, PresQuipp

**Date of search-** April 2017

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**Results of the search**



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Table 1- Detail of included studies

First Author, year and type of study	Population and setting	Intervention or exposure tested	Study results	Assessment of quality and comments
Langford et al 1997	Child population, 5 x primary schools in Sydney Australia.	a) topical medication containing the ingredient cetrimide although this was not an exact match for the ingredients of Savlon (Cetrimide chlorhexidine) b) compared with a povidone iodine antiseptic cream c) compared to a placebo	Of the 177 injuries treated, there were 9 clinical infections. A comparison of microbiological infections showed no significant difference between treatment groups (p>0.05)	The study used a small number of participants and was underpowered to show a statistically significant difference in the two products

**Summary**

There appears to be a lack of evidence for the dual components of Savlon cream (Cetrimide and Chlorhexidine). No studies were found that specifically investigate the combination of these ingredients. The Langford study was underpowered to show statistically significant difference between the two products trialed.

**Implications for Practice/research**

The lack of evidence for or against the use of Savlon for minor wound healing including post-operative wounds, suggests that its continued use must be down to the personal preference of the practitioner.

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**What would you tweet? (140 characters)**

Whilst there is no available evidence to suggest antiseptic cream / ointment containing cetrimide chlorhexidine is detrimental to wound healing, we were unable to identify evidence to support its use.

**References**

Langford JH, Artemi P, Benrimoj SI (1997) Topical antimicrobial prophylaxis in minor wounds. *Ann Pharmacotherapy* 31 (5) 559-63

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