

## What is NexoBrid®?

NexoBrid® is made up of proteolytic enzymes enriched in bromelain from the stem of a pineapple plant and is indicated for removal of dead tissue, called eschar, that sheds from healthy skin after a burn.

## How does it work?

The enzymes in NexoBrid® work by targeting and dissolving the burn eschar. It does not damage any healthy skin as the enzymes only target dead tissue.

## Why use NexoBrid®?

By removing just the dead tissue all viable healthy tissue remains preserved. This may mean that in some cases healing time may be shorter or a skin graft not be necessary.

## Does it hurt?

The pain associated with the treatment depends on the size and the depth of the burn. The burns team will follow local guidelines to make sure you get appropriate pain relief. You will be given painkillers before the procedure starts and your response will be monitored. Additional pain relief including local anaesthetic injections may be needed, and the team will check you regularly to make sure you remain comfortable.

## Can I eat and drink?

Depending on the level of painkillers and/or sedation you have received, a member of the burns team will advise you whether you can eat and drink.

## Preparation

A member of the burns team will clean your burn/s and then apply a wet soak for at least two hours. This is done to ensure that the wound is clean, moist and ready for the NexoBrid® to be applied.

## Application

After two hours, the wet soaks will be removed by a member of the burns team, and the NexoBrid® gel will be applied to the burn wound. This will only take a few minutes. Additional painkillers will be given if required.

Once the NexoBrid® gel has been applied to the burn wound it will be covered with a dressing or cling film which may be bandaged in place where necessary.

NexoBrid® takes four hours to work. During this time you should make yourself as comfortable as possible. However, it is important to try and limit movement of the treated area to make sure the NexoBrid® gel and surrounding dressings stay in place. Report any discomfort so that additional painkillers can be given.

## Removal

After four hours, the dressing will be taken off and the NexoBrid® residue removed. Extra painkillers will be provided if necessary at this stage. The NexoBrid® residue will be wiped off together with the dissolved burn eschar. It is expected that there will be some minor bleeding at this stage which is normal. Once this has happened the wound will require a further two-hour wet soak to ensure that the entire NexoBrid® and eschar residues are both removed.

Once cleaned a member of the burns team will review your wound and decide on the best treatment for you. This may be conservative treatment (dressing care only) or the burns team may decide that surgery is necessary. The subsequent care will be decided jointly by the burns team and you.

## Special precautions

Please inform a member of the burns team if you are hypersensitive to bromelain, to pineapples or papain, or to any of the components, are taking blood thinning medication or have a history of any heart and lung disease.

**St Andrews Burns Service  
Broomfield Hospital (Chelmsford)**

Adults 01245 516186  
Children 01245 516973  
Outpatients 01245 516008

**Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (London)**

Adults 0203 3153785 (Mon - Fri 8:30 – 16:30)  
02033152500 (out of hours)  
Children 02033 153706 / 0203 3153707

**Queen Victoria Hospital (East Grinstead)**

Adults 01342 414440  
Children 01342 414469

**Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Aylesbury)**

Adults and Children 01296 315040

**The Royal London Hospital (Whitechapel, London)**

Adults 0203 594 6643/6035/6034  
(Mon 13:30-16:00/Thur 9:30-13:00)  
BHNT.Plasticsurgery@nhs.net

[www.lsebn.nhs.uk](http://www.lsebn.nhs.uk)

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# Enzymatic Debridement of Burns with NexoBrid®

## Patient Information

**This leaflet answers some of the most commonly asked questions about NexoBrid®, how it works and what to expect from the procedure.**

**If you have any questions or would like to talk about anything related to the product, treatment or procedure, please speak to a member of the burns team.**