**Primary layer of wound dressing**

The primary layer is in contact with the wound. It purposes are to debride the wound, to deliver medication to the wound, to permit to and for transmission of air/fluids, semi-occlusive, to provide a seal over the wound (occlusive bandage). This layer may be adherent or non-adherent. A non-adherent bandage is usually a fine mesh or foam non –stick material. It is indicated when healthy graduation bed has been developed. This layer prevents tissue dessication and causes minimal trauma. Adherent bandages uses a wide mesh material that allows tissue and debris to become incorporated into the bandage. This debris is removed with the bandage change. Adherent bandages are applied as wet to wet, wet to dry and dry to dry and has various functions to it.

Gauze can be applied in the three formats stated above dry to dry application of the gauze is painful to remove but allows for excellent tissue debridement. Wet to wet gauze can damage the tissue bed by keeping the wound too moist. Wet to dry bandages are made with saline moistened gauze and applied to wound. They are painful to remove but less tissue dessication than the dry to dry application. There are other commercial materials made that already consist of moisture to facilitate the function of the primary layer. Intra-site, kaltostat, allevyn, melolin etc.