

Warming of ASSIST Silver Absorbent Dressing

Cristina Acevedo, PhD, Kendyl Williams, Laura Maher



BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Patients with significant burns are prone to hypothermia due to loss of thermoregulatory function of the skin. Great care is taken to avoid care steps that lead to temperature loss for the patient. ASSIST Silver Absorbent (ASA) dressings are large surface area antimicrobial moisture management dressings placed in direct contact with the patient. There is a desire to warm ASA prior to application. This technical report addresses whether ASA dressings are suitable for warming and to give practical guidance on warming the dressings.

TEST METHOD

A small slit (~0.5 inches) was created in a 24" x 36" ASSIST Silver Absorbent package. A temperature probe was carefully placed in the middle of the dressing layers, centered within the package. The slit was covered with tape to secure the probe. The temperature of the dressing was taken at room temperature, and the dressing was then placed into the oven. A temperature recording was taken every two minutes until the dressing reached the set oven temperature for two consecutive timepoints.



RESULTS

The following results were found after heating the ASSIST Absorbent dressing:

Temperature (°F)	Time to Equilibrium (min)
100°	60
106°	68
111°	84

CONCLUSIONS

1. ASSIST Silver Absorbent should be stored at temperatures less than 131°F.¹
2. For warming drawers near 100°F, ASA will take about 1 hour to come to temperature. See results for specific data.
3. ASA can be left in a warming drawer of 110°F (or lower) for up to 14 days.² Please inquire if higher temperatures are used or longer times are desired.

REFERENCES

1. Package Insert
2. Data on file