

# XPANSION<sup>®</sup>

## Skin Grafting Instrumentation



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- Small non-powered dermatome
- Single-use disposable instrument kit
- No capital equipment required



# XPANSION® Skin Grafting Instruments

## Tips and Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: Does the XPANSION® Dermatome require me to spread mineral oil on the donor site prior to harvesting the skin graft, like I would with a powered dermatome?

A: No. Since the XPANSION® Dermatome is small and light, minimal friction is created at the dermatome-skin interface. A small amount of hydrogel can be used to reduce residual friction if desired, but mineral oil should not be used, as petroleum can negatively impact graft take and proliferation.

### Q: Are there any tips to harvesting the skin graft?

A: 1) The skin graft is easiest to harvest if the skin is held under tension. This can be accomplished using the contra-lateral hand, or with the help of an assistant.

2) A “sawing” motion is critical to making the harvest as easy as possible. While it is tempting to press the dermatome downward into the flesh, or advance it straight across the flesh similar to peeling a vegetable, a distinct sawing motion to initiate the blade followed by gentle forward advancement will result in the most consistent graft possible. Do not advance the blade forward until the sawing motion has penetrated the skin.

### Q: How deep does the dermatome cut, i.e, what is the thickness of the harvested skin graft?

A: The XPANSION® Dermatome is designed specifically to harvest a skin graft ranging in thickness from 0.005”-0.029”<sup>1</sup> The XPANSION® Dermatome is pressure-dependent, but it has been calibrated to harvest a consistent graft 0.012”-0.018” thick on average.

### Q: Are there any tips to processing the skin graft?

A: 1) The skin graft is easiest to process if moistened with sterile saline, but not so moist that it's floating on the cutting mat.

2) The dermal side of the graft down towards the mat will maximize friction with the cutting surface, and is recommended.

3) The graft will process best if the cutting mat is on a firm surface. For example, a fixed counter at waist height is preferable to a metal rolling cart at sternum height.

4) The graft will process easiest if it is spread flat in one layer. If the graft folds onto itself during transfer to the cutting mat, flatten it prior to performing the first XPANSION® Device pass.

### Q: If the skin graft is larger than the width of the 24 XPANSION® Device cutting blades, are multiple XPANSION® Device passes acceptable to process the graft completely?

A: Yes, multiple XPANSION® Device passes are acceptable as needed.

### Q: If the grafts get caught between the XPANSION® Device blades, how do I get them out?

A: There is a screen between the blades that should prevent the grafts from going into the blade chamber. If they become stuck between the blades, rotation of the blades several rotations in one direction will cause the grafts to accumulate in the adjacent screen edge. The XPANSION® grafts can then be scraped onto the cutting mat with the spatula or forceps included in the kit.

### Q: There is too much saline on the cutting mat. How do I contain the XPANSION® grafts to keep them from floating off the board?

A: Option 1: Use a 25 gauge needle to remove the saline. This is large enough to remove the water, but small enough to avoid drawing in the grafts.

Option 2: Scrape the grafts together as much as possible using the spatula, then follow the spatula with gauze 4x4s to wick up and absorb saline as desired.



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<sup>1</sup><http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1295109-overview>