



<b>Title</b>	<b>Acticoat™ for the Treatment of Severe Burns</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	Report prepared for AETMIS (AETMIS 06-08). Internet access to full French text. ISBN 978-2-550-48230-7 (print), 978-2-550-48231-4 (PDF), 978-2-550-48744-9 (English summary, PDF)

## Aim

To consider the medical context for the use of Acticoat, a continuous-release silver dressing, and to analyze published scientific studies on its effectiveness with respect to pain relief, reduction of infection, and healing.

## Conclusion and results

The report concludes that Acticoat can reduce pain, especially during dressing removal, when compared to dressings with 1% silver sulphadiazine or 0.5% silver nitrate. This benefit can be enhanced even more by the possibility of less frequent dressing changes offered by this product. According to the clinicians consulted, this feature could contribute to a decrease in workload for nursing staff. Furthermore, according to the results of in vitro and in vivo analyses, Acticoat is effective in reducing colonization and preventing contamination by microorganisms. However, clinical studies have not established that Acticoat's ability to control infection and improve healing is superior, in statistically significant terms, to that of other topical silver agents, such as 0.5% silver nitrate solution and 1% silver sulphadiazine cream. Nevertheless, the observed effects are promising. Current published literature does not demonstrate Acticoat's potential for reducing hospital costs, but quicker discharge from hospital appears to be possible for children treated with Acticoat for medium-sized burns.

Given these results and the lack of studies comparing Acticoat with similar silver-based dressings, AETMIS concludes that Acticoat is a therapeutic option for treating severe burns. The rationale for its use is nonetheless based more on empirical results observed in the clinical setting than on published scientific evidence.

## Methods

Analysis of scientific studies published between 1990 and 2006. Studies which addressed cost outcomes were also considered, but an economic evaluation was not conducted.

## Further research/reviews required

Burn care is an emerging field of research, and its development paves the way for additional, better-designed clinical studies capable of demonstrating the potential benefit of this dressing