

# CeraPlus™ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

## **What are the benefits of ceramide?**

Ceramide is a natural component of human skin. It links cells of the outer skin (stratum corneum) together to form a water proof protective barrier.

The design of the stratum corneum is best described as a “bricks and mortar” pattern. The cells represent the bricks and the ceramide represents the mortar. Both are required to have healthy functioning skin. The cells linked together with ceramide will create a protective barrier which will help the peristomal skin remain hydrated and protect it from the external elements such as contact with stool/urine/bacteria and frequent barrier removal.

## **Is ceramide released from the CeraPlus skin barrier into the peristomal skin?**

The CeraPlus skin barrier is infused with ceramide to reinforce and protect the outer most layer of the skin, the stratum corneum. Ceramide is not released from the CeraPlus skin barrier into the skin to have a physiological effect.

## **How does the ceramide in the CeraPlus skin barrier promote healthy peristomal skin?**

As with all ostomy skin barriers, the skin barrier adhesive integrates into the top layer of skin. It is in this top outermost layer, where the skin will make contact with the ceramide that is infused into the CeraPlus skin barrier. Ceramide protects the outermost layer of the skin.

## **If the CeraPlus skin barrier helps skin retain moisture, will it cause peristomal skin maceration?**

The CeraPlus skin barrier is protecting the skin's natural barrier. When the peristomal skin is healthy, there will be minimal amounts of moisture crossing the skin into the environment. This will keep the skin hydrated (moisture retained) but not macerated as seen with peristomal skin that is damaged with increased water loss from the skin.

## **Will the CeraPlus skin barrier resolve peristomal itchiness?**

Ceramides help prevent water loss from the skin into the environment that can eventually lead to skin damage, dryness and itching. It is documented that dry, irritated and sensitive skin lacks ceramide. By protecting the skin's natural barrier, peristomal skin itchiness may be resolved.

## **Where is the ceramide in the skin barrier derived from?**

The CeraPlus skin barrier is infused with a ceramide produced in a lab (not derived from plant or animal sources). The ceramide in the barrier has an identical molecular structure to ceramide found in human skin.

## **When a skin barrier is infused with ceramide, will it still perform as well?**

The CeraPlus skin barrier has the same characteristics of other ostomy barriers: adhesive, erosion resistance, and absorption properties. The ceramide infused in the barrier will not affect the other necessary components of the ostomy barrier to perform as required.

## **Will ceramide cause a skin sensitivity?**

There have been no reported sensitivities to the CeraPlus skin barrier. Ceramide is a natural component of human skin and therefore should have very low levels of sensitivity reactions.

## **Is there a maximum number of days after which ceramide will no longer be active?**

There is nothing fundamental about ceramide that would make it break down after a specific period of time.

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## **What is the wear-time of the CeraPlus skin barrier?**

Barrier wear time is dependent on many factors including peristomal skin condition, stoma output, humidity, perspiration etc.

## **Is ceramide infused into the tape border as well?**

The tape border is not infused with ceramide.

## **Can I use accessories with a CeraPlus barrier?**

Accessories such as paste, powder, and barrier rings can be used when required to improve barrier fit and security.

## **Can I use a barrier film or skin protective wipe?**

The CeraPlus barrier works best when it comes in direct contact with the skin. A skin protective wipe or barrier film will minimise the direct contact the CeraPlus skin barrier will have with the peristomal skin.

## **Can I “crust” with the CeraPlus barrier?**

As with any skin barrier, when the peristomal skin is moist, the skin barrier will not adhere. Crusting may be necessary to prepare the peristomal skin so the skin barrier will adhere.

## **Does accessory usage block the benefit of ceramide on the skin?**

Further data is required with the use of accessories and the CeraPlus skin barrier. It is best if the CeraPlus skin barrier comes directly in contact with the peristomal skin, however the use of accessories such as barrier rings, paste and powder may be required to ensure barrier fit and security, preventing leakage and skin irritation.

## **Is there a CeraPlus barrier ring?**

Yes, CeraRings are available in the Slim & Standard (Flat) & round and oval shaped in the Convex range.

## **Is the CeraPlus skin barrier available with a tapeless border option?**

CeraPlus is available in the 1 & 2 piece skin barrier with tape border option. The tapeless border option is currently only available in the 2 piece skin barrier and 1 piece closed.

## **Does the CeraPlus skin barrier come in a one-piece pouch option?**

Yes, CeraPlus skin barrier is available in the 1 piece Closed and Drainable with flat, soft & firm convexity.

## **Can the CeraPlus skin barrier be used on the paediatric population?**

There has been no formal testing done of the CeraPlus skin barrier on paediatric skin. Use of the skin barrier with this population should be based upon a clinical decision involving an assessment of the patient and their skin condition.

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