

## Surgical Reality Donor Care and Maintenance

The surgical reality embalming process causes the outer stratum corneum to peel off the donor. Losing this layer means that the donor will lose the ability to retain moisture. Over exposure to air will dehydrate the donor.

Here are some simple guidelines and photos to demonstrate how to properly care for your donor.

- 1) When not in use, leave the donor in the bag. Suction out free standing fluid once a month or prior to use. Utilizing a sheet (under the bag to be brought up around the bag and tied off) will help keep air flow from gaining entrance through the zipper.
- 2) If your storage area facility's ventilation system does not have air flow exchanges or you use any type of humidity causing equipment (such as a ventless dryer) utilize the plastic stockings to cover the legs and arms. Wrap the head in Saran wrap, drape and tuck saran wrap over the torso.
- 3) Over time, you may notice a white (non raised) substance forming on thin areas of the donor. This is just salt residue coming to the surface. We have had a few instances of a white raised fungus appear. This is usually caused by leaving trash, instruments or gloves in the bag or because of the facility's ventilation system not being clean. Spray the areas with either Cavacide or undiluted white vinegar. Let sit for about 10 minutes, scrape off, spray down again and wrap with new saran wrap.
- 4) Should you have areas that start to dehydrate, utilize a restorative/humectant chemical (Trinity's product is called TriniLan) mixed with water and spray the areas.
- 5) While the donor is in use, cover any areas not in use with surgical drapes or sheets.

- 6) To position donors in lateral positions or to use cautery instruments, place a blue surgical towel over the arm or legs, use duct tape to strap the donor down. Wrap the duct tape around the donor, over the blue towel and around the table to secure. Use duct tape to secure the cautery pad in place.
- 7) To maintain the donor ID, the purchasing user and any documentation such as procedures performed etc. write the info on plastic ID cards, zip tie to the body bag.











