

# P 10

## FEEDBACK ON THE USE OF A SECONDARY HERMETIC\* DRESSING IN EQUATORIAL FORESTS (GUYANA)

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**Materials:** The secondary hermetic\* dressing used in our test is made of a polyurethane film and a silicone based gel. This gel, applied on the perimeter of the primary dressing, makes the secondary dressing hermetic. The properties of this class I medical device are very useful in military environments by protecting an acute injury or a wound that is in the process of healing.

**Methods:** We tested it on French military personnel fighting against illegal mining in Guyana. 16 dressings were placed for several hours to three days, as a covering for different primary dressings. The equatorial forest conditions are particularly tough: environmental humidity, repeated immersions in unsanitary water, multiple vegetal, animal and equipment aggressions during the progression into the forest through clothing and in the framework of physical activity.

**Results:** Dermatological lesions are the main causes of medical consultation and exemptions. The promises of the dressing held remarkably for the 16 placed devices. They allowed the pursuit of a satisfactorily led healing without interrupting the military missions in the equatorial forest.

**Conclusions:** This hermetic dressing limited the decrease in the operational capacity of our military personnel by reducing the days of exemption in the equatorial forest. Its use must be tested in other atypical and more conventional conditions.

\* Secuderm®