

(diagonal or spiral) and not too loose or too tight, which could cause slippage and malalignment of traction.

Assess traction boot to ensure it has not slipped and is not causing compression of the foot, thus impairing the circulation.

Skeletal Traction

Check pin sites frequently for signs of bleeding, inflammation, or infection.

Cleanse and dress pin sites per institution protocol or as ordered.

Apply topical antiseptic or antibiotic to pin sites daily as ordered.

Cover ends of pins with protective rubber or padding to prevent child being scratched by pin.

Note pull of traction on pin; pull should be even.

Check pin screws to be certain that screws are tight in metal clamp that attaches traction apparatus to pin.

Prevent Skin Breakdown

Provide alternating-pressure mattress underneath hips and back.

Make total-body skin checks for redness or breakdown, especially over areas that receive greatest pressure.

Wash and dry skin at least daily.

Inspect pressure points daily or more often if risk for breakdown is observed.

Use a skin breakdown assessment scale, such as Braden Q.

Stimulate circulation with gentle massage over pressure areas.

Change position at least every 2 hours to relieve pressure.

Encourage increase in intake of oral fluids.