A SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COPIOUS EXUDING WOUNDS IN A COHORT STUDY

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INTRODUCTION
Excessive production of wound exudate may be the source of local complications, significant discomfort and may impair patients’ quality of life¹. Effective management of exudate should shorten wound healing time, optimize resources and reduce the impact on the physical and psychosocial health status of the patient¹⁻³.

OBJECTIVE
The purpose of this observational study was to evaluate the relevance and efficacy of a superabsorbent* dressing in the management of acute and chronic copiously exuding wounds.

METHOD
✓ Multi-centre prospective, non comparative study, conducted in 2010 at six Ambulant Patient and Hospital (APHP) centers in Paris
✓ Study period of 8 weeks.
✓ Ambulant and hospital patients with highly exuding wounds
✓ Follow up: 7 days with visits at day 0, day 3 and at day 7.
✓ Observational data on wounds and related symptoms obtained from patients and clinicians.
✓ Treatment with a *superabsorbent dressing.

RESULTS

STUDY POPULATION
✓ 15 patients: 6 M/9F
✓ Mean age: 69.7 years
✓ 8 hospital / 7 ambulant patients

WOUND TYPES
✓ 7 acute wounds / 8 chronic wounds
✓ Type:
  Pressure ulcers 2
  Venous ulcers 1
  Mixed ulcers 1
  Diabetic foot 1
  Ulcerating tumours 3
  Acute surgical 6
  Other 1
✓ Location:
  Thorax 2
  Arms 1
  Abdomen 3
  Perineal 2
  Leg 5
  Foot 2
✓ Cavity wounds 60 %
✓ Peri-lesional skin maceration 47 %
✓ Exudate: moderate to high 100 %
✓ Pain upon dressing changes moderate to excruciating 74 %
✓ Previous treatment: alginate + absorbent pad > 40 %

PERI-LESIONAL SKIN DAY 0/DAY 7

EVALUATION OF THE CLINICIANS

FREQUENCY OF DRESSING CHANGES
Day 0: Advanced MWH dressings
Day 1: Dressing type
Day 2: Vliwasorb
Day 3: Superabsorbent dressing
Day 4: Lohmann
Day 5: Polyacrylate
Day 6: Hipler
Day 7: Other

CONCLUSION

In view of these results, *superabsorbent dressings seem to be particularly interesting for the application in exuding wounds, to:
• Reduce complications
• Enhance patient comfort
• Reduce clinician’s time required for wound treatment

DISCUSSION
✓ Clinical efficacy: No exudate related complications (maceration)
✓ Improved comfort and quality of life in 100 % of the cases
✓ Excellent tolerance = no adverse events
✓ Small study group

REFERENCES

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