HydroBalanced wound dressing* and a ready-to-wear compression device** in the treatment of venous leg ulcers

Mosti G, Mattaliano V, Spengler M*, Abel M*
Dept. Angiology, Clinica Barbantini, Lucca, Italy; * Medical & Regulatory Affairs, Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH & Co KG, Rengsdorf / Germany

Introduction:
Venous leg ulcers are caused by venous insufficiency and related hemodynamic impairment causing complex microcirculatory and haemorheologic modifications. Compression exerted by bandages is very effective in promoting ulcer healing. The aim of our work was to demonstrate the feasibility of the treatment of venous leg ulcers by means of a HydroBalanced biocellulose based wound dressing (HWD)* with a ready-to-wear compression device (RCD)**.

Material and Methods
From February to August 2007 we selected 13 ambulatory patients (age 76.6±7.1) with vascular leg ulcers (surface < 100 cm², lasting < 1 year). The ulcers lasted for 5.8±2.7 months; their surface was 13.6±22; 1-80 cm² (mean; standard deviation; range); the pain, evaluated according to the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), was 7.3±1.5 before starting the treatment. The patients were checked once a week for dressings change and wore RCD** during day and night.

Results
All the ulcers healed in 74.2±35.3 days (fig. 1). We did not have any drop out. Patient’s compliance was good besides 3 who complained about a negligible dyscomfort during the night.

Pain due to ulcer decreased in the first 3 weeks and was nearly absent subsequently (VAS from 7.3±1.5 to 0.8±0.8; fig. 2).

No adverse effect was reported but redness of skin of the bone or tendinous prominences in 2 patients.

Conclusions
This non-controlled clinical evaluation shows that in selected cases the combination of HWD* and RCD** promotes fast ulcer healing. The treatment can reduce and abolish the pain caused by the ulcer and is generally well tolerated.

* HWD = Suprasorb® X
** RCD = Rosidal® mobil
Lohmann & Rauscher products

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