The use of a HydroBalanced antimicrobial wound dressing* in the debridement and management of an infected cannula site - a case study

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Introduction
Case reports can be a useful way of illustrating a wound management problem or to share a particular clinical experience (Nelson, 2000). This case report demonstrates the debriding potential and antimicrobial potential of a HydroBalanced antimicrobial wound dressing.

Miss X is a six year old Asian child who was referred urgently to the Tissue Viability nurse by the plastic surgery team. She had received two liver transplants, was immunocompromised and a high risk patient. Miss X had an infected and necrotic cannula site on her right upper arm.

The previous management was with an amorphous hydrogel and silicone contact layer for the previous seven weeks. The plastics team had ordered free range larvae and had asked the Tissue Viability Nurse to ‘look after the family’.

Method
The objective of treatment was to provide an atraumatic debriding and antimicrobial wound dressing that was suitable for a six year old child.

In an adult, sharp debridement may have been the treatment of choice, but this was not an option for this young child and her anxious mother.

The HydroBalanced antimicrobial wound dressing used has the ability to donate and absorb wound exudate. In light of the need for further research when using silver wound dressings in children (White et al 2011), it was decided to use the safe and effective broad spectrum antimicrobial Polyhexanide (PHMB) within a biocellulose wound dressing which uses HydroBalance technology.

Results
The children’s nurse reported that the child’s mother had commented that Miss X had had her first night’s sleep without waking up. Debridement was rapid and completed within 5 days of treatment. Complete healing followed very shortly after.

Conclusion
This HydroBalanced antimicrobial wound dressing proved to be a rapid and gentle method of debridement for this anxious young child and her mother. Larvae were not required and the antimicrobial effect meant the wound progressed to healing very quickly - which was very important in this complex case.

References


* Suprasorb® X+PHMB by Activa Healthcare Ltd.