The management of moderate to high exudate in chronic wounds


Method

The data for the twelve patients was entered onto the same data collection form to ensure consistency in the evaluation. This evaluation was divided into three sections:

- Patient details - which included for example age, gender, type of wound, exudate level, previous treatment used and the frequency of previous treatment dressing changes.
- Dressing performance - which included for example ability to hold exudate, ease of application and removal, skin condition and adhesive border.
- Overall comments - including if the new, adhesive superabsorbent wound dressing reduced the frequency of dressing changes.

Results

- Wound types included sinus, leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers and traumatic ulcers.
- Exudate levels varied on a scale of 1-10 (where 10 was the highest). Ten patients scored between 6-10 and two patients 4-5 (Table 1).
- Previous treatment included seven patients who had used an adhesive foam dressing, one had used a hydrofibre and four had used another absorbent dressing.
- Five patients had their wound redressed daily, four every other day and three every 2-3 days.
- Three patients also used compression hosiery and in the other nine patients compression was not applicable.
- In all twelve patients, the new adhesive superabsorbent wound dressing had reduced the number of dressing changes required, sometimes from daily dressings to twice a week.
- Within the section evaluating dressing performance there were 9 questions in total, giving 108 possible evaluations for the twelve patients (Table 2).

   - 52% of questions had been evaluated as very good
   - 41.5% as good
   - 5.5% as fair
   - 1% as poor.

   The ‘poor’ and ‘fair’ responses related to a patient with sensitive skin who may not have been suitable for a normal adhesive dressing.

Conclusions

Many comments were made at the end of the evaluation form including:

- “Patient preferred it to the previous absorbent pad”
- “Staff state the dressing is excellent”
- “Holds a lot of exudate”

It is important that any adhesive dressing is assessed as being suitable for the skin type of patients.

The county wide evaluation continues and when the product has been used more widely, a decision will be made as to inclusion in the community formulary.

Reference