

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

N. FAUCHER¹, H. SAFAR², M. BARET³, A. PHILIPPE⁴, R. FARID⁵

¹Geriatrician, Hospital Bichat-Claude Bernard, ²Geriatrician, Centre hospitalier Sainte-Périne-Rossini-Chardon Lagache, ³Geriatrician Centre hospitalier Lariboisière-Fernand Vidal, ⁴RN, TVNS, Centre hospitalier Cochin-Saint Vincent de Paul, ⁵RN, TVNS, Centre hospitalier Saint Antoine, APHP, Paris, France.

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

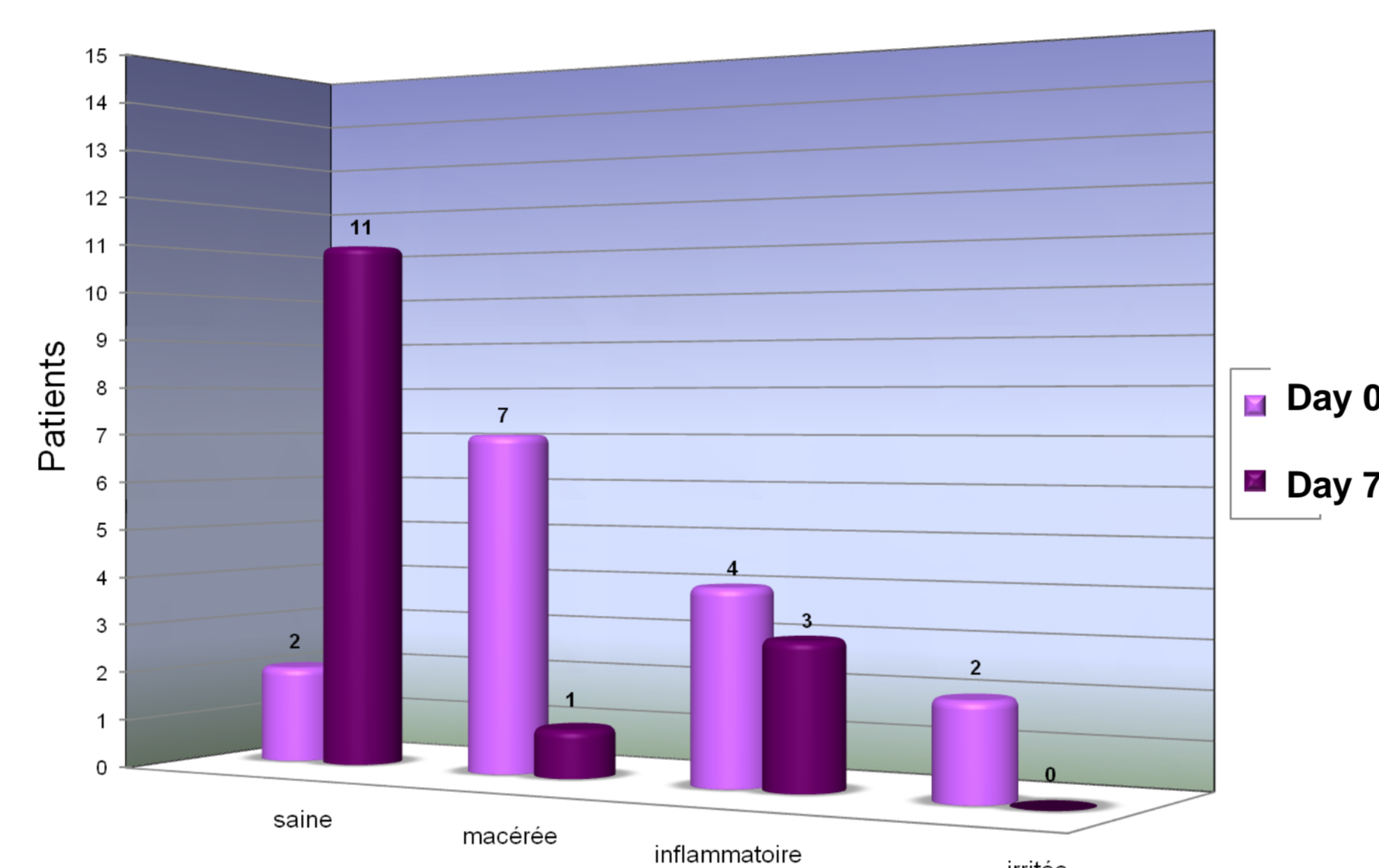
WOUND TYPES

- ✓ 7 acute wounds / 8 chronic wounds
- ✓ Type :

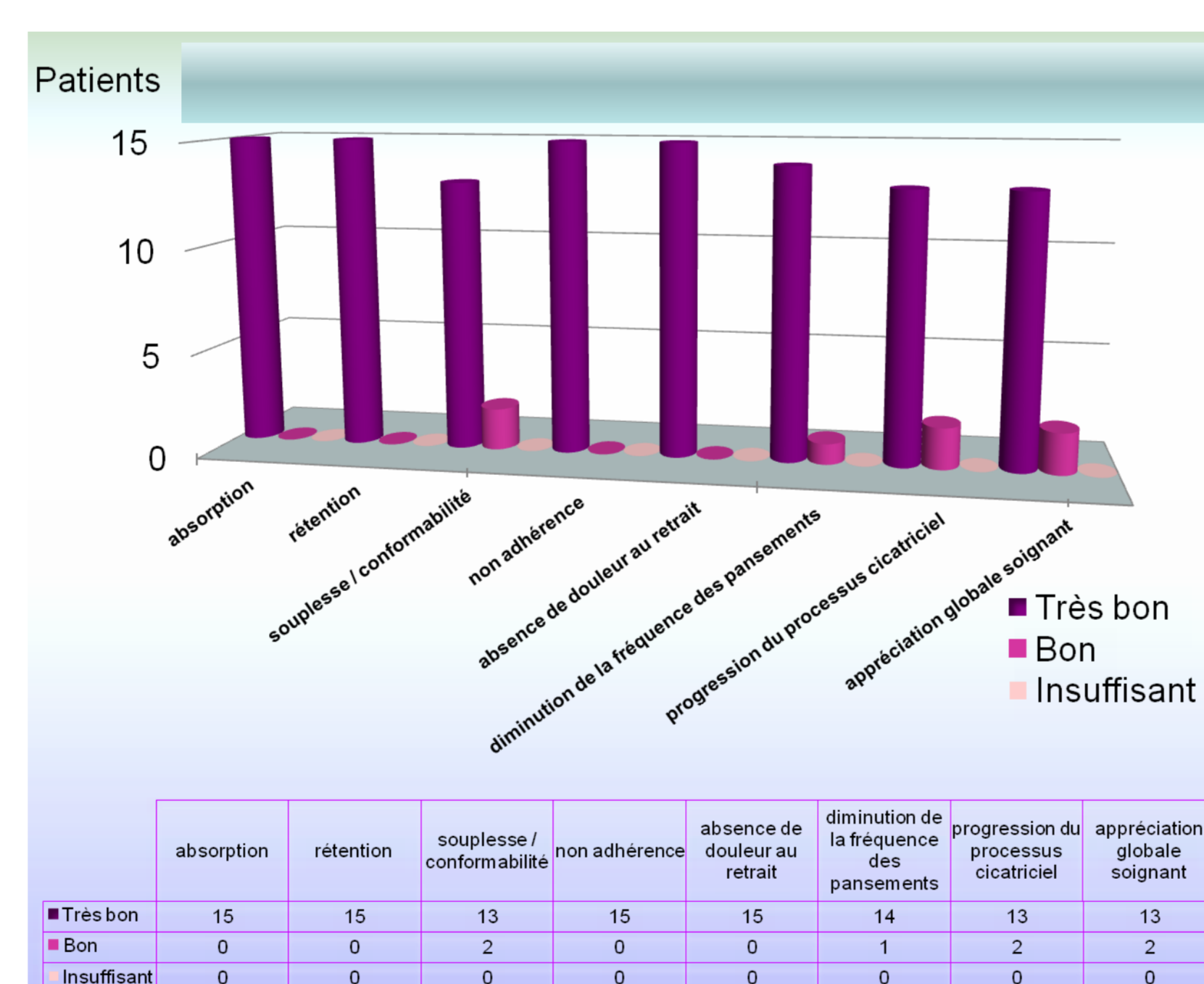
Pressure ulcers	2
Venous ulcers	1
Mixed ulcers	1
Diabetic foot	1
Ulcerating tumours	3
Acute surgical	6
Other	1
- ✓ Location :

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 %

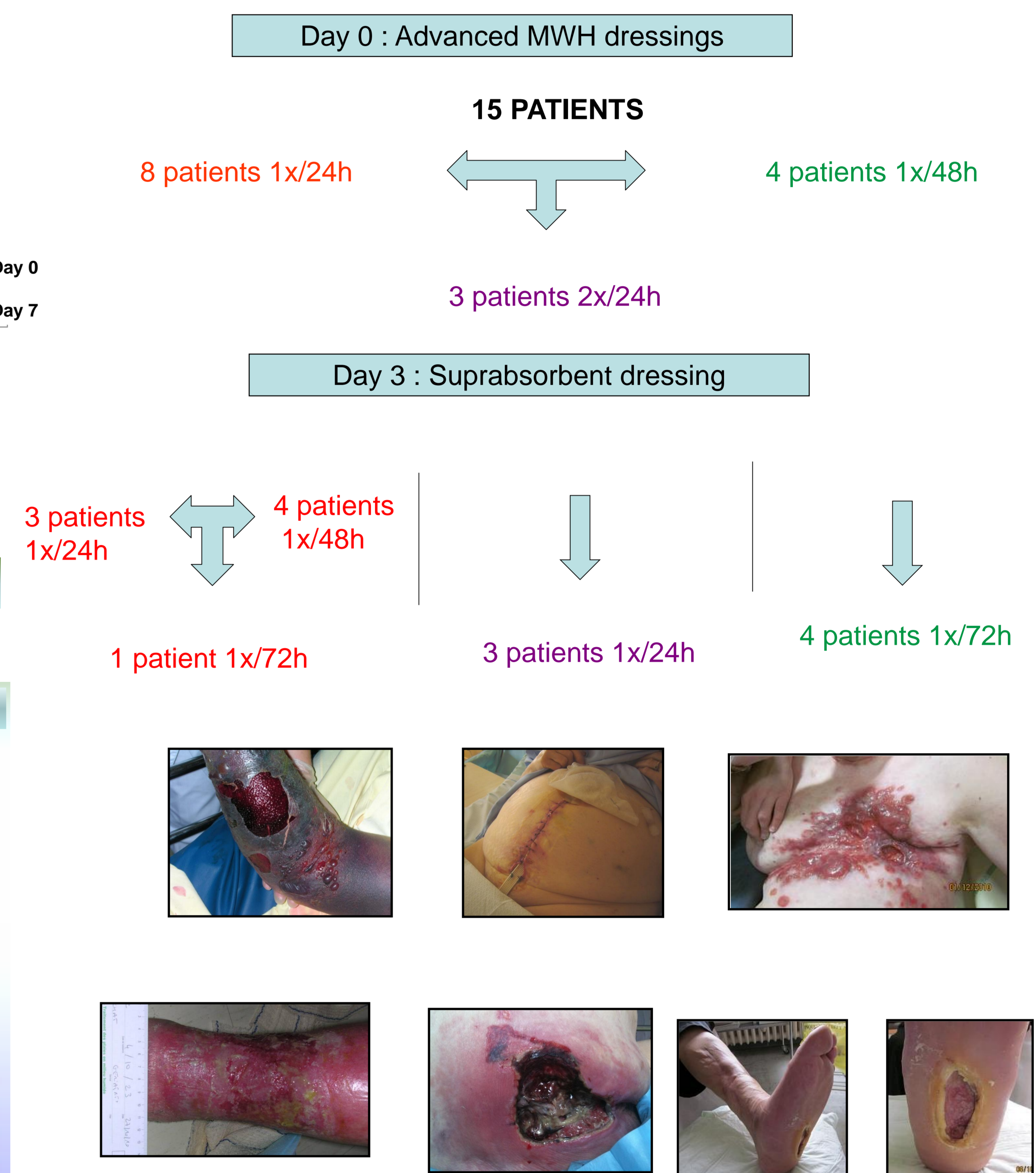
PERI-LESIONAL SKIN DAY 0/DAY 7



EVALUATION OF THE CLINICIANS



FREQUENCY OF DRESSING CHANGES



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

Scientific grant: Lohmann & Rauscher

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

* Vliwasorb®, Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH, Rengsdorf, Germany

REFERENCES

1. Tadej M. The use of Fliwasorb in highly exuding wounds. British Journal of Nursing, 2009 (Tissue Viability Supplement), Vol 18, No 15
2. Wiegand C, Abel M, Ruth P, Hipler UC (2008) Polyacrylate superabsorbers bind inflammatory proteases in vitro. Poster presentation Wounds UK 10-12 November 2008, Harrogate, UK
3. Steinlechner E, Rohrer C, Abel M (2008) Absorbent Dressings with Superabsorbent Polymers – A New Generation of Wound Dressings. Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/klofz7> Accessed 17 Feb 2011

21st EWMA conference, Brussels, Belgium:
May 25 – 27/2011