

The Use of a Novel Superabsorbent Dressing Supports Palliative Wound Management Protocols

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Introduction

- Palliative wound care protocols should focus on symptom management.
- Controlling wound odor, pain and exudate are key to improving quality of life in this patient population.
- Highly absorbent, long wearing dressings decrease the need for costly dressing changes while still managing heavy amounts of exudate.
- Additionally preventing periwound maceration is key,
- Dressings that can also controls odor, minimize infection, and decreases pain should be used to increase quality of life in this patient population.
- Using materials that help to optimize the wound environment supports better patient outcomes.

Methods

- This is a prospective 3 patient case series of Stage 4 Pressure Injuries
- All patients were enrolled into the Woundtech long-term care pathway based on their cumulative FRAIL score.
- As part of standard of care, the innovative non-adherent superabsorbent dressing was applied to the wound/periwound.
- The dressing boasts a soft wound contact layer that ensures fast exudate transfer into the superabsorbent polymer core of the dressing.
- A silicone contact layer facilitates painless removal.
- The water-repellent outer layer of the dressing is permeable to air preventing strikethrough and allowing for protection of clothing and bedding.
- The wounds were assessed, and dressings were changed every 7 days.

Case Studies



Baseline measurement: 3.2cm x 2.8cm x 0.6cm



3-Month interval measurement: 2.5cm x 2.0cm x 0.2cm



Baseline measurement: 3.6cm x 3.2cm x 1.9cm



3-month interval measurement: 2.0cm x 0.4cm x 0.1 cm



Baseline measurement: 5.7cm x 6.0cm x 1.5cm



3-month interval measurement: 5.1 cm x 5.0cm x 0.7cm

Case 1

- 64 yo female with a Stage 4 PI of the left trochanter
- PHM: MS, incontinence to both feces and urine, malnourishment, anemia
- Patient is bedbound
- Wound duration >2-years
- Wound care protocol: Cleanse wound weekly with antimicrobial wound wash, debride PRN, cover with Zetuvit Plus bordered superabsorbent dressing
- Wound course: Over the span of 3 months the wound area decreased and maceration of the periwound was lessened. No episodes of infection were reported. Patient was not hospitalized. Patient tolerated dressing without pain or complaint.

Case 2

- 54 yo male with a Stage 4 PI of the sacrum
- PHM: Guillain Barre syndrome, neuropathy, obesity, paraplegia, COPD.
- Patient is wheelchair bound
- Wound duration >1-years
- Wound care protocol: Cleanse wound weekly with antimicrobial wound wash, debride PRN, cover with Zetuvit Plus bordered superabsorbent dressing
- Wound course: Over the span of 3 months the wound area significantly decreased. No maceration of the periwound was noted. No episodes of infection were reported. Patient was not hospitalized. Patient tolerated dressing without pain or complaint.

Case 3

- 61 yo male with a Stage 4 PI of the sacrum
- PHM: spinal cord injury, paraplegia, ostomy, hyperlipidemia, ESKD, malnutrition, NIDDM, HTN.
- Patient is bed bound
- Wound duration >2.5-years
- Wound care protocol: Cleanse wound weekly with antimicrobial wound wash, debride PRN, cover with Zetuvit Plus bordered superabsorbent dressing
- Wound course: Over the span of 3 months the wound area decreased. Maceration of the periwound was reversed. No episodes of infection were reported. Patient was not hospitalized. Patient tolerated dressing without pain or complaint.

Results

- The use of this innovative superabsorbent dressing fit well into our existing palliative wound care protocols.
- The unique combination of loose cellulose and superabsorbent polymers produced a padding effect to provide added patient comfort overlying areas of pressure
- The dressing trapped fluid securely without macerating the periwound skin.
- Malodor was well managed, and dressings were able to be left in place for 7 days.
- All patients tolerated bandage changes well without any complaints of pain or bandage adhesion.

Discussion

- The principles of palliative wound care are becoming more important as our population ages.
- Woundtech advanced care clinicians treat patients with complex wounds due to multiple co-morbidities and local factors.
- When a patient becomes enrolled into our long-term care pathway, maintaining high quality wound care remains the goal.
- Managing both wound symptoms as well as addressing psychosocial patient concerns help to minimize the negative impact of living with a chronic wound and increase patient quality of life.
- Managing wound symptoms with this advanced superabsorbent dressing helped to minimize the negative impact of living with chronic wounds and increase patient quality of life in these patient cases.
- The Woundtech model of care allows for increased access to advanced wound care, breaking down barriers for the patients that will benefit the most.
- There is a growing need for alternative models of care such as this to support patients aging in place and allow them to maintain their quality of life for as long as possible.

Investigational Product

Zetuvit Plus (Hartmann Group, Heidenheim, Germany)



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