

POLYMEM DRESSING FOR SKIN GRAFTS DONOR SITES IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Jeremy Tamir, Josef Haik, Eli Regev, Arie Orenstein

Sheba Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

Background: Skin grafting is one of the most common surgical procedures to cover acute and chronic wounds. The traditional donor site dressing is gauze soaked with paraffin or scarlet red. Recent studies showed the advantages of moisture holding dressings over the traditional dressing. Polymem is a semi-permeable polyurethane foam dressing with the addition of surfactant (F 68), glycerin and starch. It creates an optimal moisture balance and does not adhere to the wound surface.

Objective: We present our experience in treating skin grafts donor sites in children and adults with Polymem wound dressing.

Methods: Polymem dressing was determined as the dressing of choice for all the skin grafts cases done at our department. We compared the ease of application, pain reduction and donor site epithelization between polymem and paraffin soaked gauze.

Polymem dressing was changed every 2-3 days and the gauze dressing was left adhered to the wound until epithelization was complete.

Results: We skin grafted 221 patients using Polymem to dress the donor sites wounds. 180 were adults and 41 were children. The primary wounds were burns, penetrating trauma and chronic wounds. Compared to the traditional paraffin soaked gauze we observed a dramatic reduction in donor site pain, much less traumatic dressing exchange in burned children, decreased donor site infection rate and a faster donor site epithelization rate.

Conclusions: The Polymem foam dressing has many advantages over paraffin soaked gauze in skin grafts donor site wounds.