

P 119

QUICK HEALING OF A DEEP MRSA-INFECTED WOUND USING SILVER POLYMERIC MEMBRANE DRESSINGS*

June Stamps

Minimal Access Surgery, Inc., Springdale, AR, United States

Background: A 60-year-old male presented with a painful spider bite on his buttock. Initial treatment included intravenous antibiotics for cultured MRSA (Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus), sharp debridement, daily saline wet-to-dry dressings and iodine dressings, all with no improvement. After three weeks, the patient was referred to the Certified Wound Specialist nurse at the surgical clinic. The wound measured 3cm x 2cm x 2cm deep.

Aim: We wanted to enhance wound healing through use of polymeric membrane dressings, which soothe and hydrate wounds while absorbing excess wound fluid, preventing maceration. Silver polymeric membrane dressings contain nanocrystalline silver particles which are effective against many microbes, including MRSA.

Methods: Conformable silver polymeric membrane dressings were applied as a combined primary and secondary dressing. Due to the patient's activity level, gauze was placed on top of the dressing and taped securely along all edges. Dressings were changed three times per week, when they were 50-70% saturated. The wound was cleaned with saline at all dressing changes per facility policy. Silver polymeric membrane dressings were used to complete wound closure.

Results: By the third dressing application, the wound size decreased and granulation tissue present in the wound-bed increased. Use of silver polymeric membrane dressings dramatically reduced nursing time spent changing dressings. Polymeric membrane dressings also reduced the patient's pain and increased his general comfort level. The deep wound healed in only one month.

Discussion: Use of silver polymeric membrane dressings from initiation of treatment to complete wound closure was cost- and time-efficient and provided an excellent clinical outcome.

*PolyMem® Silver™

P 120

DEEP LOWER EXTREMITY WOUNDS CLOSED QUICKLY USING POLYMERIC MEMBRANE DRESSINGS*

June Stamps

Minimal Access Surgery, Inc., Springdale, AR, United States

Background: Deep wounds present unique problems regarding dressings and treatment. Exposed tendons and deep tissue must be kept moist enough to remain viable, but excess exudate must be wicked away from the wound bed to prevent complications. The wounds must remain clean, but too much disturbance can damage the newly forming structures in the wound bed, slowing healing. Deep wounds are also often very painful.

Aim: We wanted to diminish pain and promote quick healing for each of our patients. Polymeric membrane dressings provide significant wound pain relief. The dressings draw and concentrate healing substances from body into the wound bed to promote rapid healing while facilitating autolytic debridement directly by loosening bonds between the slough and the wound. And, these unique dressings add moisture to dry wounds while absorbing excess exudate, so they are indicated for use even in deep wounds complicated by exposed tendon or bone. Silver polymeric membrane dressings are bactericidal.

Methods: Three patients were treated with various types of polymeric membrane dressings (wound filler, extra-thick, silver) placed directly against the wound bed, including exposed tendons in two cases. Dressings were changed 1–3times/week with patients doing some of the dressing changes themselves.

Results: All three patients experienced diminished wound pain and brisk healing, with granulation tissue increasing and fibrin/slough diminishing. Exposed tendons were quickly covered and all of the wounds closed.

Discussion: Wound pain diminished, sites became clean, wound beds filled in, tendons remained viable. All patients benefited from brisk wound closure.

*PolyMem Wound Dressings

