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### ANTIMICROBIAL EFFECT OF A SILVER IMPREGNATED FOAM DRESSING\* ON A BROAD RANGE OF WOUND PATHOGENS

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**Aim:** The present study aims to demonstrate the antimicrobial effect of a silver impregnated foam dressing\* that has been developed based on a patented soft silicone adhesive technology\*\*.

**Methods:** The antimicrobial effect was tested against common wound pathogens using the Kirby-Bauer standard method "zone of inhibition", slightly modified, i.e. corrected zone of inhibition (CZOI). Small pieces of the dressings were placed on agar plates, pre-inoculated with bacteria or yeast. After 24 hours of incubation, clear zones around the dressings due to inhibited growth were measured. A soft silicone foam dressing\*\*\* without silver was used as control.

**Result:** CZOI of aerobic gram-positive bacteria such as *Bacillus cereus*, *Corynebacterium jeikeium*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus faecium* (VRE), *Enterococcus faecalis* (VRE), *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) were 4.6, 1.7, 0.0, 3.0, 5.7, 6.3, 4.3, 7.0, and 8.0 mm respectively.

CZOI of aerobic gram-negative bacteria such as *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Bordetella trematum*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Moraxella canis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (multi-resistant), *Salmonella enterica*, *Serratia marcescens* and *Proteus vulgaris*, were 6.3, 13.3, 3.0, 4.0, 1.3, 2.7, 5.3, 3.0, 7.7, and 4.3 mm.

CZOI of anaerobic bacteria such as *Clostridium perfringens*, *Finexgoldia magna*, *Bacteroides fragilis* and *Prevotella bivia* were 1.3, 2.0, 2.3, and 0.0 mm.

CZOI of fungi such as *Candida albicans*, and *Candida guilliermondii* were 12.3 and 13.3 mm.

No clear zone was detected around the negative control.

**Conclusions:** This study demonstrates the antimicrobial effect of the silver foam dressing on Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria as well as yeasts.

\*Mepilex Ag®, Mölnlycke Health Care AB

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### LEG WATCHERS: A SUPPORT GROUP FOR PATIENTS WITH OR AT RISK OF DEVELOPING LEG ULCERATION

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**Aim:** Leg Watchers is a support group for patients with or at risk of developing leg ulceration in the local community. The group runs once a month and aims to offer advice, support and referral on if necessary. The group does not offer active treatment but provides information on self-management and prevention strategies for patients who may have concerns about their legs.

**Methods:** The group runs for two hours and is split into two sessions. The first session provides information on self-management strategies and preventative measures. The information may be delivered by a variety of methods, which may include informal presentations, video and practical demonstrations. The second part of the session provides the chance for patients to have a one-to-one with the specialist nurse. An action plan is drawn up for either active or preventative management. Leg Watchers has a well-established relationship with members of the multi-disciplinary team, which aids a quick and efficient referral on if necessary.

**Results:** Whilst Leg Watchers is still in infancy, the group wishes to develop and evolve. It is hoped that through audit and patient satisfaction questionnaires, a group such as this will be able to demonstrate the impact that preventative measures have for patients in relation to the prevention of leg ulceration and recurrence rates, patient concordance, quality of life issues and the ever pertinent issue of cost-effectiveness in clinical practice.

**Conclusions:** Further groups are looking to be set up in the local area, with 'out of hours' drop in sessions for patients who have concerns regarding their legs and cannot access their G.P or practice nurse in office hours. This group is proactive in the prevention and management of leg ulcers and not reactive as many active leg ulcer clinics are.

