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EVALUATION OF THE CLINICAL EFFECT OF HYDROACTIVE WOUND DRESSING* ON NECROTIC TISSUE AND ON THE GRANULATION PHASE

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Aim: The presence of necrotic and fibrous tissues often impairs healing of chronic wounds. Contamination with various germs provides an ideal breeding ground for this devitalised tissue. Colonisation sometimes leads to infection of the wound, slowing or even preventing the healing process. It is important to use an adapted wound dressing in every wound phase. By using the hydroactive wound dressing*, we tried to evaluate the effect of it in the debriding and the granulation phase.

Methods: We evaluated 10 cases of several wound types with a necrotic wound surface. The dressing has been changed once a day. When possible, a sharp debridement has been performed. Once debridement was achieved, we kept going on with the hydroactive wound dressing*. Data about time for debridement and wound healing has been followed. The evolution of the wound healing could be visualised by digital photos.

Discussion: The composition of the hydroactive wound dressing* places it in the osmotic products class. The polyacrylate contained in the hydroactive wound dressing* has an affinity for proteins and is therefore able to absorb bacteria and debris.

In conjunction with these cleansing capacities, the moisture-regulating hydroactive wound dressing* is in complete accordance with the principles of moist wound healing, providing an ideal environment for the wound to heal.

Conclusion: A hydroactive wound dressing* allows us to ensure that the wound is cleaned not only safely but also actively. Furthermore, we are convinced that it is meaningful to use this dressing in the granulation phase. Even epithelialisation could be observed under the hydroactive wound dressing*.

*TenderWet®

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'TOTAL PURCHASE'; AN INNOVATIVE DRESSING SCHEME FOR FUTURE PODIATRY WOUNDCARE PRACTICE

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Aim: Traditionally Podiatrists managing foot wounds have not been able to prescribe dressings; hence access to modern wound care products has been from the GP or Nurse Prescriber. In everyday practice, this can be an extremely lengthy time-consuming and costly procedure. This poster will outline the 'Total Purchase' (TP) dressing scheme findings.

Method: 'Total Purchase' (TP) is a concept originated by ConvaTec who worked in partnership with Stockport Podiatry Department to improve service delivery and audit current wound care practice. A six month pilot study was undertaken by the Podiatry Team (n=22).

Results: The TP scheme collated a plethora of data, auditing Podiatrists clinical practice pre and post implementation, thus benchmark trends in wound types and wound care practice. The audit tool identified the types of wounds being seen by the Podiatry staff and in the case of diabetic foot management, highlighted the type / classification of presenting ulceration using the Texas Wound classification chart.

(Ref: Armstrong D, Lavery LA & Harkless LB (1998) Validation of a diabetic wound classification system. *Diabetes Care* 21(5): 855 – 859).

Analysis and presentation of audit results showed improvements in dressing choice ensuring the dressing used is appropriate and compatible for the classified wound type thus supporting NICE guidelines, (2004)

Discussion: Patients with foot wounds now receive the management they need at the right time, with the right dressing, permitting timely and appropriate treatment for the patient. GP's and Nurse Prescribers are no longer being disturbed to just write a script, thus minimizing the impact on practitioner caseload management. Adherence to the formulary is also actively encouraged and monitored facilitating an overall reduction in wastage and cost.

The scheme was pump primed by £6000 and after 6 months came in under budget.

The 'TP' Scheme is a 'live' tool to improve access to wound care dressings and enhance standards of clinical practice. Better access facilitates not only a seamless and integrated service, but notably maximizes cost effectiveness and minimises wastage too.

The introduction of the 'Total Purchase' dressing scheme has completely revolutionised Podiatry access to wound care products and practice in Primary Care.

