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LARGE NECROTIC; MALODOURUS PRESSURE ULCER CLOSED USING A POLYMERIC MEMBRANE SILVER CAVITY FILLER

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Problem: A 60 year old lady with Alzheimer's disease and reduced mobility contracted a pressure ulcer on her heel while admitted to the hospital for dehydration. After discharge she was treated by the local GP with Hyaluronic acid for about 4 months. The putrid ulcer, which then measured 8 x 6 cm with a depth of 2 cm adjacent to visible bone, was so foul smelling that the family could not visit the patient at home. In spite of multiple medications, including opioids, to decrease inflammation and pain, the woman's pain level was a constant 9 out of 10.

Aim: To reduce the pain and clean the wound. Polymeric membrane dressings help reduce wound pain by inhibiting the nociceptors and can donate or absorb moisture as needed. Ingredients draw and concentrate healing substances from the body into the wound bed to promote rapid healing while facilitating autolytic debridement. Slough is liquefied and absorbed by the dressing, often eliminating the need for cleansing during dressing changes. The silver version has additional antimicrobial properties. Therefore, silver polymeric membrane cavity filler and dressings were initiated supplemented with charcoal dressings for the first month.

Method: Initially 1-2 ml saline was added to the polymeric membrane cavity filler to stimulate autolytic debridement. Dressings were changed 1-2 times a day due to the large amount of discharge. After two weeks daily dressing changes with a standard polymeric membrane cavity filler was used instead of the silver version.

Result: After only two days the wound was significantly cleaner and the odour was controlled. Wound odour was gone in four weeks. At six weeks the patient's pain was at 5 and at eight weeks she was completely pain free without medication. At just over three months the large cavity completely closed.

Discussion: We saw fast results when it came to cleansing, reduction of pain and odour and wound healing. Dressing handling and application were very easy.