

18

UNIQUE DRESSINGS PROVIDED DRAMATIC PAIN RELIEF TO DETERIORATING PAINFUL PRESSURE ULCER AFTER HEART SURGERY

Charalambos Agathangelou

Dhali Community Geriatric Home, Dhali, Cyprus

The 63 year old patient underwent a mitral valve replacement and a pacemaker insertion. Due to surgical complications the patient was totally immobilized for several days during which time he developed a deep painful sacral pressure ulcer. After one month of painful daily dressing changes with Betadine and gauze at the day clinic the wound was still deteriorating. The wound was 8 cm long with a tunneling about 4 cm deep. Periwound area was indurated and inflamed and extremely painful when touched.

Aim: The physician's main concern was a potential infection that would jeopardize the heart surgery; the patient's main concern was the pain that prevented him from sitting down. The patient's pain level was a constant 8 out of 10.

Method: Polymeric membrane dressings provide significant wound pain relief by inhibiting nociceptor activity at the site. Ingredients draw and concentrate healing substances from the body into the wound bed to promote rapid healing while facilitating autolytic debridement directly by loosening the bonds between slough and wound. The polymeric membrane cavity filler was used together with a standard polymeric membrane dressing that covered the peri-wound area.

Result: After one week the patient's pain level had dropped to 5 out of 10. After yet another week the pain was gone completely and the patient could sit at the table and eat with his family. There were no longer any inflammation signs and the wound was reducing in size. It took a little over four months for the wound to close completely. During the last months the dressing was changed three times a week.

Discussion: The dramatic change in pain and fast closure of the wound can only be explained by the use of these unique dressings. We now use polymeric membrane cavity fillers as our standard dressings on deeper wounds.