

**USE OF COMBINED BIGUANIDE POLYHEXANIDE AND BETAINES SURFACTANT SOLUTION AND GEL TO AID DELAYED HEALING IN COMPLEX, RECALCITRANT CHRONIC WOUNDS**

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**Aim:** To assess the benefits of a biguanide polyhexanide and betaine surfactant antiseptic solution and gel in the management of complex, recalcitrant chronic wounds of varying aetiologies including venous and arterial leg ulcers, post-surgical sinuses, and skin graft donor sites.

**Methods:** Patients with complex, chronic wounds, healing by secondary intention, were treated with the antiseptic solution and gel and assessed sequentially using clinical measurements of wound area and depth, pain severity scores, wound exudate and odour. Time to complete healing and concomitant treatments used were also recorded.

**Results:** Of the fifteen patients studied, two healed completely (defined as epithelial closure) within two months of commencing treatment. Over 50% of patients were noted as having a clinically recognised reduction of exudate, with none having increased amounts of exudate. Six patients reported falls in both frequency and severity of their wound-related pain, with reduced requirements for analgesia. Only one patient reported an increase in pain and therefore the treatment was discontinued.

**Conclusions:** The patients in this study were known to have delayed healing of their wounds and they had been treated in the Department of Wound Healing for a mean of 18.7 months, for a range of other associated issues, including pain, high levels of wound exudate and a reduction in quality of life. The use of polyhexanide and betaine antiseptic, in conjunction with standard wound healing management, promoted a decrease in exudate and pain in these selected patients, and should be considered as an adjunct in the treatment and healing of recalcitrant, complex chronic wounds.