

**REDUCING BACTERIAL LOADING AND THE EFFECT ON WOUND HEALING WITH A HYDROBALANCE WOUND DRESSING WITH PHMB\***

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**Introduction:** It is the experience of the Eastbourne Wound Healing Centre (WHC) that when colonisation and pH is reduced, 85% of the wounds will rapidly heal and the WHC is in the process of investigating reduction of pH and bacteria with a hydrobalance wound dressing with PHMB. A hydrobalance wound dressing with PHMB is the only moisture-regulating wound dressing containing polyhexamethylene biguanide at 0.3%, a broad spectrum antimicrobial known to be effective against MRSA. In 80% of cases the bacterial load of critically colonised is significantly reduced with a hydrobalance wound dressing with PHMB. It is has a cooling effect which can reduce pain in the wound and is also atraumatic on removal.

**Methods:** The plan is for 10 case studies with the 1<sup>st</sup> being Mrs PF, an 83 year lady with a painful venous leg ulceration the left leg. She was seen twice weekly, swabbed weekly, and pH and photographs taken on every visit. This method will be used for all 10 case studies. On first application the wound measured approximately 13 cm<sup>2</sup> and had 90% devitalised tissue and 10% granulation. There was an odour and the pH was 7 with swab result of +++ mixed skin flora.

**Results:** The wound was reviewed after 3 days. The dressing had remained hydrated under the bandaging and was atraumatic on removal. The wound bed had improved with a reduction in the amount of devitalised tissue and an increase in the granulation tissue to a ratio of approximately 60/40. There was also a reduction in the overall size of the wound to 9.4 cm<sup>2</sup> pH readings of the wound had remained at 7. Wound swab results showed a reduction in skin flora to + mixed skin flora which was a significant reduction.

**Conclusion:** A hydrobalance wound dressing with PHMB resulted in improvements within the wound bed and reduced bacterial load. The results of the 10 patient study will be presented in poster format at Helsinki.

\* Suprasorb® X+PHMB