

THE TREATMENT OF INFECTED WOUNDS OF OLDER PATIENTS WITH A SILVER ALGINATE

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Aim: To determine, the effectiveness of silver alginate with infected pressure ulcers.

Method: A case study of 20 patients with infected (with primary and/or secondary symptoms) pressure ulcers determined a clinical view. The data have been collected once a week in a postulated document and supported with digital photographs. The wounds were treated 1 to 3 times a week with silver alginate and covered with a secondary bandage; permutation of the bandage depends on exudation and urine and /or faeces loss.

Results: 11 pressure ulcers wounds on the heel and 9 pressure ulcers on the coccyx (N=20). After 3 weeks the infection on the coccyx was gone but usage of silver alginate was continued for 2 weeks more because of urine and/or faeces loss. After 2 weeks the infection on the heel was gone.

Discussion: Nutritionist was consulted for hydration and nutrition. Pressure relief mattresses and pillows, were used and applied. Patients and caretakers were informed and trained on how to apply the treatment.

Conclusion: The alginate with silver is very effective to restore the bacterial balance. In two and a half weeks on average the infection is gone and the wound healing can continue. The alginate had a good fluid handling and created a moist environment. It's easy to apply and change. Attention for identifying wound infection, this is difficult for not experienced nurses