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THE EFFECT WOUND BED STATUS OF A IONIC SILVER DRESSINGS IN CANCER PATIENTS WITH MALIGNANT FUNGATING WOUND

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Aim: This study examined the effectiveness of a silver ionic dressing on wound bed status of head and neck cancer patients with malignant fungating wounds (MFW)

Methods: A randomized control trial, single blinding and parallel experimental study design was developed and implemented. Subjects were recruited from a 1,000-bed academically based medical center with six special units ward head and neck cancer patients with MFW in north Taiwan. A total of 32 MFW participants were randomly assigned to silver dressing (SD) group (n=14) or non silver dressing group (NSD) (n=18) with a follow-up of two week. Primary outcome variables was wound bed status . Secondly outcome variables was health related quality of life.

Results: There was no significant difference in demographic variables between SD and NSD groups ($p>.05$). Firstly, a Wilcoxon test for paired observations test was used to examine the change in MFWAT-N from pretest to posttest in each group. Significant statistical differences ($t =4.62$, $P=.001$) were demonstrated in the experimental group; while no significant statistical differences ($t =26.72$, $P=.000$) was shown in the control group. MFWAT-N, bleed, and amount of exudate was significant difference in demographic variables between SD and NSD groups.

Conclusions: MFW has a negative impact on HRQOL. Hydrofiber dressing that contains silver control malodor, exudates, amount of exudates in patients undergoing MFW palliative period. Further studies exploring a longer term follow up are also required.