

P 299

THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF USING CALCIUM ALGINATE SILVER MATRIX IN THE TREATMENT OF WOUNDS

Zandile Chirwa¹, Thobile Bhengu¹, K Litiane¹.

¹*South Rand Hospital (Johannesburg, South Africa)*

Aim: To investigate the cost effectiveness of using a silver dressing in the treatment of wounds.

Method: 20 patients (12M:8F) median age; 55 with locally infected diabetic foot ulcers (4), acute wounds (4) venous leg ulcers (4) pressure sores (8). Patients had clinical signs of infection the bacterial density was monitored. Group1 patients were treated with alginate dressing with antibiotics, Group2 treated with calcium alginate silver matrix*. Dressing costs and manhours were compared.

Results: Group1 more expensive than Group2 considering nursing time and dressing changes. Bacterial load significantly reduced within 7days, Group 2 and infrequent dressing changes. There was insignificant different in healing times. Staphylococcus aureus strains reduced in group2 within 7days.

Conclusions: It's more cost effective to use calcium alginate silver matrix dressing* for the treatment of infected wounds.

*Askina Calgitrol Ag BBraun