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CLINICAL EFFICACY OF AN ALTERNATIVE FOAM-BASED NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY SYSTEM*

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Aim: A number of options for delivery of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) are now commercially available. There is a need for additional evidence demonstrating the clinical efficacy of these new products.

Method: A newly available polyurethane foam-based NPWT system* was used to treat 18 patients in a prospective, multicentre study with a variety of wound types. Mean patient age was 48.3 (range 25-72) years. Mean treatment duration was 14.6 days (5-29 days).

Results: 83% (15) wounds had progressed sufficiently leading to a change in treatment from NPWT. Reductions in wound dimensions between the onset and the end of therapy were calculated. Median reductions in wound area, depth and volume of 31, 46 and 74% respectively were observed. This equated to a weekly reduction of area, depth and volume of 13, 20 and 32% respectively. Exudate level was significantly reduced between the onset and the end of NPWT ($p=0.013$). The percentage cover of 'beefy' red granulation tissue in the wound bed was significantly increased ($p<0.001$) and non-viable tissue significantly reduced ($p=0.008$) between the onset and the end of NPWT. Significant reductions in wound odour ($p=0.03$) and generalised wound pain ($p<0.001$) were also measured.

Discussion: This data suggests that an alternative foam-based NPWT system* is able to address the common treatment goals associated with application of NPWT including reduction in wound dimensions, reduction in exudate levels and an improvement in the quality of the wound bed.

*reference not available