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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF A PORCINE ACELLULAR DERMAL MATRIX VERSUS A HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING IN SPLIT SKIN GRAFT DONOR SITES

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1) Aim: To examine the efficacy of a porcine acellular dermal matrix dressing in the healing of split thickness skin graft donor sites, compared to our standard hydrocolloid dressing, in the setting of the National Burns Unit of Ireland.

2) Methods: Following split thickness skin graft harvesting, each donor site was dressed with both a porcine acellular dermal matrix and hydrocolloid dressing (a split site model). After 10 days the dressing were removed and the donor site healing was assessed using digital planimetry. The wounds were also assessed for exudate, dressing soakage and requirement for dressing replacement.

Nursing staff were also surveyed to score their overall satisfaction with both dressings for each of the study patients.

3) Results: The donor sites dressed with the porcine acellular dermal matrix showed greater epidermal regeneration at 10 days with less exudate and less frequent dressing changes.

The nursing staff surveyed expressed a higher level of satisfaction with the use and outcome of the porcine acellular dermal matrix dressing.

4) Conclusions: These findings support the adaptation of the porcine acellular dermal matrix as a standard skin graft donor site dressing in a Plastic Surgery Unit, and show it reduces dressing time to healing and number of dressing changes needed in total. It is also the preferred dressing of the nursing staff involved in the above context.