

Case Study 1

Treatment of a leg burn with new Hydrocoll

Patient A presented to the Accident & Emergency Department two days after sustaining a burn to his left ankle and foot, resulting from hot cooking oil whilst making chips.

On presentation it was ascertained that a partial thickness burn covering 2-3% surface area encompassed the anterior and medial aspects of the left lower leg and foot, and the left great toe. Blistering was evident, some of which was deroofed and erythema surrounded the wound. Wound colour was yellowish, exudate was sparse, no slough was present and there was no evidence of granulation or epithelialisation. Moderate pain was being experienced, sensation was intact, dorsalis pedis was palpable and tetanus status was up to date.

A photographic record was obtained (*image 1*) and the wound was dressed with New Hydrocoll dressings, the application of five 10 x 10 cm dressings being necessary for



Image 1

the surface area involved. At the time of the evaluation only one size of dressing was available otherwise a larger sized dressing would have been used.

On first review the dimensions of the wound remained unchanged. It was clear that using multiple dressings had resulted in the leakage of exudate. Removal of the dressing was easily accomplished with no trauma to the wound or pain to the patient. The wound surface was extremely wet with clear exudate. Superficial slough covered 60% of the wound bed, 30% soft reddish granulation tissue was present with 10% epithelialisation having occurred. The wound margins were flat, surrounding tissue remained healthy and moderate pain persisted.

A secondary dressing was applied to the wound to absorb leaking exudate.

On final assessment after nine days (*image 2*) there was good evidence of healing.

Approximately 60% healthy granulation tissue and 40% epithelialisation was evident. Exudate had diminished significantly and slough was minimal.



Image 2

The overall results achieved from using New Hydrocoll dressings in the case study were most encouraging. The noted benefits of this new Hydrocoll were ease of application, comfortable to wear, easy removal, absence of trauma on removal and significant healing achieved in a relatively short time span.

Containment of exudate and odour may have been better managed with the use of the larger size of dressing. Nevertheless, this does not detract from overall satisfaction with the wound outcome.

A Brown
Staff Nurse
Accident and Emergency
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
Grampian health Services

Quiz winners

The five lucky winners each receive a £20 WHSmith voucher, we would also like to thank all the people who took part in the quiz.

Mrs Amanda Pearson
Co. Durham

Sally Andrew
Cheadle

Hazel Whitehead
Liverpool

Paul Cotton SRCH
Huddersfield

Nicola Forbes
Lincoln