HOLISTIC APPROACH: ADVANCED WOUND PRODUCT SELECTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH COMPLEX CHALLENGING WOUNDS

Dimitrios Lintzeris, DO, CWS; Kari Yarrow, RN; Laura Johnson, RN; Amber White, RN; Amanda Hampton, RN; Kristy Albert, PTA; Arlene Cook, PTA; Anthony Strickland, RN
Wayne Memorial Wound Care Center, Goldsboro, NC

OBJECTIVE

Complex challenging wounds of various etiologies are managed at our Wound Care Clinic. Identification of causative factors, surgical and acute debridement, use of modalities, compression and off-loading along with adjunctive therapies and education are all part of our holistic approach in developing comprehensive treatment plans. Effective treatment plans are often determined by the right combination of topical dressings and adjunctive therapies.

METHOD

This patient case series focuses on topical wound care and off-loading, in particular; 5 patients using Active Leptospermum Honey (ALH). In addition, 3 patients also used a novel Super Multi-Polymer Dressing (SMP)**. Patients were concurrently treated with compressive therapy and 1 patient used off-loading with total contact casting (TCC)**. Patients were chosen due to chronicity of wounds with lack of healing progress in 1 month or 3 months despite use of other advanced methods of treatment; including but not limited to collagen, skin substitutes, silver dressings and enzymatic debriding agents. Patients were medically complex with multiple comorbidities and history of non-adherence to medical advice impacting healing.

RESULTS

It is evident that even with the varied populations, wound types and co-morbidities a common outcome was the reduction in wound surface areas by 25% in just 2 weeks after the addition of one or more of ALH, LM, HCS, SAP, TCC or compression. All 5 patients were treated with ALH combined with SAP. However, the 2 patients that had the addition of compressive and the 1 patient that had the addition of TCC achieved closure in 10 days or less.

CONCLUSIONS

All of the wounds demonstrated progress achieving complete closure in an average of 50 days. All of the patients were pleased with the improvement in their wounds.

Reference:

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CASE 1

Case Discussion: 58 year old male presented with a left Hallux post-surgical wound and a left 2nd toe amputation site. PNP includes: arterial insufficiency, diabetes mellitus, and cardiac failure. Patient was treated with ALH for 4 weeks resulting in complete closure. On 6/15/13 the leg was transferred to ortho.

Patient Outcomes: 40 Days to 100% closure

CASE 2

Case Discussion: 60 year old male presented with blisters/cracks of the right lower leg. PNP includes: Diabetes mellitus and hypertension. There was significant erythema to leg, drainage is heavy yellow without significant malodor. Patient was treated with a silver dressing***. A TCC dressing in 2 parts was used for compression dressing.*** Complete closure of the wound was achieved in 21 days with compression loss.

Patient Outcomes: 24 Days to 100% closure

CASE 3

Case Discussion: 55 year old male, presented with a long standing history of an atherosclerotic open wound of the lower leg. PNP: HTN, diabetes, CAD, osteoarthritis, depression, arterial stenosis and chronic atrophic necrosis. All leg and ankle pressures are suggestive of mild arterial disease. Patient was treated with 3 week step down evaluation. A ALH, SAP and a 2 layer compression wrap.

Patient Outcomes: 35 Days to 100% closure

CASE 4

Case Discussion: 70 year old male presented with an ulcer of the right great toe which the patient was treating at home for two months prior. PNP: HTN, GERD, fracture, a hyperlipidemic, and seizure. Silver Collagen dressing*** was initiated until further tests were evaluated such as labs HTN and a veg. Right foot was 3 cm x 2 cm negative for foul smell. Sustained the patient in ALH Alginate, foam and TCC. Mild necrosis present for debridement and callus change. 10/17 wound was 100% healed and patient was transferred to ortho with mild residual granulation and a high heel shoe was prescribed.

Patient Outcomes: 43 Days to 100% closure

CASE 5

Case Discussion: 70 year old male presented with a gangrenous right toe. Amputation of the affected toe(s) and left metatarsal head was performed. PNP: Thrombocytopenia secondary to cancer, CHF, HTN, atherosclerotic, PAOD, and diabetes mellitus. Patient presented 1/13/13 with partial thickness ulceration with debridement and Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT). From 1/25/13 to 2/21/13 patient was treated with ALH gel and gauze for 48 days.

Patient Outcomes: 147 Days to 100% closure