

AQUACEL® EXTRA™ dressing with Strengthening Fiber for the Management of a Malleolus Ulcer of 27 Year Duration

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Clinical Problem

This elderly woman (94 years of age) had a persistent right posterior-lateral malleolus ulcer related to venous insufficiency that was related to post-phlebotic syndrome. The wound was of 27 years duration. Over the years she was treated with oral and parental antibiotics and had a number of wound cultures. She has been seen by this clinician the last three years in a long term care facility. Her laboratory data was unremarkable and the wound culture was negative. Her arterial/brachial index was 1.31. It was presumed she had mixed venous-arterial disease but not confirmed as she declined a biopsy. Dressing changes were done on a daily basis. She felt her quality of life was impacted with daily dressing changes and wanted to reduce the frequency. A highly absorbent dressing was needed to achieve this.

Past Management

She had been managed with compression, negative pressure, and a variety of topical antimicrobial therapies. She also received a several courses of culture-based oral and parenteral antibiotics over the last three years. The patient refused biopsy. She also declined split thickness skin grafts and bioengineered skin to cover the wound.

Approach

The wound measured 2 x 1.1 cm with a satellite lesion measuring 0.7 x 0.4 cm. The wound was heavily exudating. The wound bed was 100% granulation tissue and the surrounding skin was normal. Hemosiderin deposition was noted. A 2"x2" (5x5 cm) AQUACEL® EXTRA™ dressing was applied as the primary dressing covered with foam dressing and then an elastic tubular support bandage.

Results

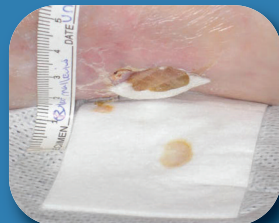
Initially the dressing changes were daily but were reduced to three times per week by week three of the new protocol.

AQUACEL® EXTRA™ Hydrofiber® Dressing with Strengthening Fiber:

- Managed the exudate and maintained its integrity
- Helped reduce the wound size and helped manage the satellite lesion
- Was comfortable when in place and upon removal
- Met *the patient's goal* of fewer dressing changes



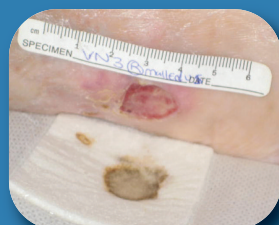
Day 1: Appearance of wound prior to the use of AQUACEL® EXTRA™ dressing. Wound measured 2.1 x 1.1 cm with a satellite lesion measuring 0.7 x 0.4 cm.



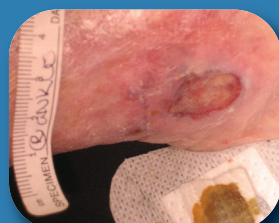
Day 7: AQUACEL® EXTRA™ dressing managed much of the exudate. Satellite lesion resolved.



Day 7: Appearance of wound and dressing after removal. Wound measured 1.6 x 0.7 cm and was pink.



Day 14: Wound measured 1.7 x 0.7 cm. Wound pink with some fibrin distally.



Day 21: Dressing upon removal. Wound measured 1.7 x 0.8 cm. Wound red but with increasing fibrin in base. Weekly dressing changes.