

Impact of Ultra Soft Foams on Patient's Quality of Life

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Example 1

Case History: Female, 88 years, sacral pressure ulcer for 8 weeks

Issues: Stage III sacral ulcer increasingly immobile, inadequate bedding, insufficient wound care

Previous Therapy: Vaseline Gauze, Absorbent dressing

Additional arrangements: Adequate bedding system, adapted wheelchair cushion



9.11.2007: Stage III with deep cavities • Stagnating healing process • Level of Exudate: Heavy • Level of Pain: VAS 7 • Irritation

of surrounding skin • Dressing change interval: every 2 days • Treatment: Alginate, Medical Honey, Ultra Soft Foam



4.1.2008: Stage III, no cavities • Level of Exudate: moderate • Level of Pain: VAS 4 • No irritation of skin • Dressing change interval: 3-4 days • Treatment: Alginate, Medical Honey, Ultra Soft Foam



7.3.2008: Stage 1 • Level of Exudate: none • Level of Pain: VAS 2 • No irritation of skin • Dressing change interval: 5-7 days • Treatment: Medical Honey, Ultra Soft Foam

Example 2

Case History: Female, 82 years, pressure sore on the heel for 10 weeks

Issues: Increasingly immobile, inadequate bedding, insufficient wound care

Previous therapy: Special foam dressing for heel with moderate exudate capacity

Additional arrangements: Adequate bedding system



3.12.2007: Stage III with Slough • Stagnating healing process, stalled wound healing smell from the wound • Level

of Exudate: Moderate • Level of Pain: VAS 7 • Heavy maceration of surrounding skin • Dressing change Interval: Every two days • Treatment: Alginate, Medical Honey, Ultra Soft Foam



4.1.2008: Stage II • Level of Exudate: very light • Level of Pain: VAS 2 • No maceration • Dressing Change Interval: Every 7 days • Treatment: Medical Honey, Ultra Soft Foam



29.2.2008: Stage 0 • Level of Exudate: none • Level of Pain: VAS 2 • No maceration • Dressing Change • Interval: Every 7 days • Treatment: Medical Honey, Ultra Soft Foam

Background

The treatment of patients with chronic Wounds, often takes only the therapy of the local wound into consideration. Parameters such as the Influence of the patient's physiological state, as well as the agonizing pain, can often be seen as a secondary issue.

A comprehensive integral approach regarding the treatment of these patients, involves all aspects of patient care and quality of life issues.

Patients benefit from the right choice of dressings which also includes a high level of comfort for the patient and the reduction of pain. This subsequently leads to better patient compliance and a quicker time to heal.

Methodology

The aim of the study was to evaluate the influence in regards to the application of an ultra soft foam* on local wound therapy and its relationship with the quality of life for patients with chronic wounds.

The ultra soft foam dressing* was applied to chronic wounds as part of a dressing protocol. The dressing was changed an average of 3 times per week. The results of wound assessments have been documented using a digital wound documentation system "dwundd" (including photo documentation). Eight Case Studies were conducted over a 3 month period on patients with pressure sores (Stage II to IV) and Leg Ulcers.

Patients were asked to compare the level of pain (VAS) and comfort of the new ultra soft foam dressing*, to that of the previous one used. Additional properties evaluated were exudate management of the foam, impact on the wound edges, the surrounding tissue and closure time of the wound.

Results

"She almost forgot that she has a wound on her bottom."

Patients described this non-irritating foam as extremely soft and comfortable and the wounds showed improvement within a short period of use.

The number of weekly dressing changes was reduced from three to one or two due to the excellent absorbency of this foam dressing* in combination with an alginate and/or a small amount of medical honey, making this a very cost effective option.

The physical properties of this new foam dressing resulted in the reduction of pain, leading to an increased quality of life for the patients using this product.

Conclusions

The results suggest that this new foam, with its ultra soft matrix, may provide a simple and cost effective solution to achieving a moist wound healing environment, desirable for chronic wounds. This ultra soft foam dressing* also provides optimum protection of the wound edges, often leading to pain reduction and thereby increasing the patients' quality of life.



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*Copa™ sold by Covidien.