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Community wounds: Destroying biofilm with Suprasorb® Liquacel Ag – a new generation antimicrobial hydroactive fibre dressing with sustained silver release

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Situation

An 80-year-old lady who lives in a rest home and has chronic, painful bilateral venous leg ulcers. Various dressings have been trialled with little change to the ulcers, which have been present for a year. Within this timeframe the ulcers had increased in size, and the levels of exudate being managed had not reduced **[Pic. 1A/2A]**.

Action(s) taken/ treatment provided

The evaluation to place over 5 weeks on the 80-year-old lady in her rest home. Dressing changes were previously completed daily, and during the evaluation period with the new antimicrobial hydroactive fibre dressings*, a superabsorbent dressing** and three layers of bandaging. Dressings were now only changed twice per week. After 13 days, a tenacious slough is present in all areas, which is difficult to debride **[Pic. 1B/2B]**. On day 38, the wounds show a reduction in slough, and the amount of serous exudate has decreased **[Pic. 2C]**.

Outcome

In the first 2 weeks a reduction of slough and exudate was visible. After week 5 the size of the ulcer had reduced, the slough was no longer present, and the exudate had been managed. The patient also reported a reduction in pain. The patient had reduced social activities as a result of her chronic leg ulcers and now with the positive clinical outcome, she could now to return to the activities available in the rest home.

Lesson learned

By Introducing the new antimicrobial hydroactive fibre dressing into the patient's treatment plan, we discovered a clinical beneficial and cost-effective option to effectively remove the slough, manage the exudate and reduce the size of the ulcer. These results lead to the patient's improved quality of life because she could now partake in the social activities held in the rest home.

Pic. 1: Course of treatment (right leg)

Pic. 2: Course of treatment (left leg)

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*Suprasorb® G Liquacel Ag, ** Vliwasorb® Pro Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH & Co. KG