

# Treatment of a hard-to-heal venous ulcer with a HydroBalanced biocellulose-based wound dressing\*

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## Introduction

The HydroBalanced wound dressing (HWD\*) is a dressing consisted of biocellulose and water. It is able to hydrate and to absorb exudates to maintain an ideal moist environment.

The female patient is a diabetic of type 2 and has a bilateral malleolar venous ulcer for 3 years. Grafts were done in November 2003 on both two legs resulting in a complete healing on the right malleolus and a marked improvement on the left malleolus. This ulcer required new grafts in February 2005 and in March 2006 before healing in July 2006. This patient regrettably came back in consultation for recurrence in September 2006.

The wounds were located in internal left malleolus and external right malleolus. The size of the wound was 6 x 9 cm on the right and 6 x 7 cm on the left. It was a very painful ulcer (10 on a scale from 0 to 10).

Besides the grafts, the previous treatment consisted in a PU foam dressing with ibuprofen\*\* which proved to be ineffective after few days, which required a new hospitalization.

Faced with this therapeutic impasse and in spite of the very important exudate, it was decided to use HWD\* which had an “analgesic” effect (subjective pain reducing effect) on the patient in some hours. The secondary dressing used was a PU foam dressing\*\*\* changed every day then to saturation point, while the HWD\* dressing is changed every 4-5 days.

Left malleolus



Right malleolus



### January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Day 1:

Wounds with fibrin and exudation.



### January 22<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Day 19:

On the left, wound practically without fibrin and appearance of granulation tissue (approximately 4 x 6 cm).

On the right, appearance of granulation tissue (approximately 5 x 8 cm).

On the scale of pain, the patient estimates her pain at 4.



### February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Day 42:

On the left, appearance of important tissue of epithelisation and light exudation (approximately 2 x 3 cm).

On the right, no more of fibrin and appearance of tissue of epithelisation (approximately 3 x 5 cm).

The pain disappeared (0 on the scale of pain) since the end of January 2007.



### March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 – Day 58:

On the left, the wound is completely closed.

On the right, stays a small wound about 1 cm in diameter.

## Conclusions

The ulcer on the left leg healed in 2 months and on the right leg it was considerably reduced while these wounds existed since 2003. Furthermore, there was observed a consequent reduction of pain in less than one month.

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\* HWD = Suprasorb® X, Lohmann & Rauscher; \*\* foam with ibuprofen = Bialain Ibu, Coloplast; \*\*\* foam = Suprasorb P, Lohmann & Rauscher