

New HydroBalanced wound dressing* used in finger-tips refractory wounds of scleroderma (SSc) patients

Maino C, Pozzi MR, Bernabò C, Galbiati M, Allevi E, Motta P, Manzocchi N, Russo P

Azienda Ospedaliera S. Gerardo, Day Hospital, 2nd Division of Medicine, Monza, Italy



Introduction:

Scleroderma (SSc) wounds located at finger-tips are difficult to manage due to the location of the lesion as well as due to the usually associated severe pain (fig 1). In an open trial we enrolled 15 SSc patients with refractory finger-tips wounds (11 with more than one ulcer) treated with vasodilators systemically and locally with a new bio-cellulose based HydroBalanced wound dressing* (HWD) which can absorb exudate and donate moisture. Several types of advanced dressing have been applied in the previous weeks with no pain control or ulcer depth reduction.

Material and Methods

The dressing has been applied 2 times per week over 3-4 weeks and then once per week over further 3-4 weeks (fig 2).

Results

Pain both spontaneous and dressing related, dramatically decreased in 14/15 pts after the first application, disappearing in all the pts after the 2nd medication. Wounds healed in 13 out of 15 patients after 30 days while improved significantly in the last 2 who have been maintained on weekly dressing regimen (examples see fig 3 and 4). During 1 year follow-up wounds recurred in 2 patients due to the systemic disease and further application of wound dressing* resulted in healing for one of this while bone infection occurred in the last patient who was submitted to surgical amputation.

Conclusions

In our experience the wound dressing* was better than any other advanced dressing we used for the healing of finger-tips wounds in SSc patients both for the pain control and for its comfort in application and formability. The product HWD* showed a very good tolerability and protected the surrounding skin of the wound. Controlled studies will be needed to confirm these first very positive results in SSc patients.

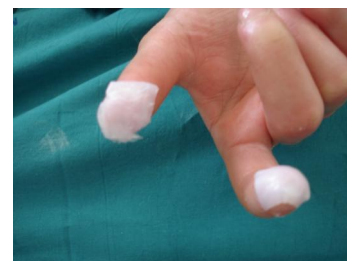


Fig 2 Application of / treatment with HWD*



Fig 3 Example of single lesion healed after 8 weeks of HWD* application



A B

Fig 1 Typical finger-tip wounds of SSc patients

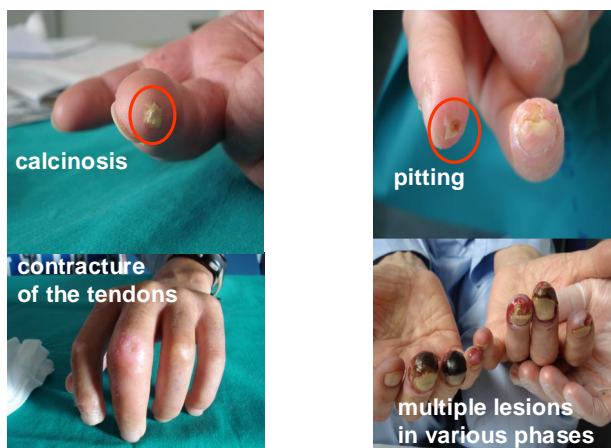


Fig 4 Examples of application of HWD* on finger-tip ulcer

* HWD = Suprasorb® X, Lohmann & Rauscher