



Observational, international, multicentre, single-arm study to assess the performance, safety and handling of new antimicrobial hydro-active fibre dressing

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Aim

Infected or infection-prone wounds are a challenge in wound care, requiring effective infection management and wound exudate control [1]. A new antimicrobial hydro-active fibre dressing* containing silver nanoparticles was developed for these needs. This study aimed to assess the product's performance, safety, and usability in managing such wounds.

Method

The observational study took place at 6 centres in Germany (n=5) and Austria (n=1). Eight wound managers treated 81 patients (46% male/54% female) with the investigated product, performing at least 4 dressing changes over 7 to 28 days as per instructions. Results were collected via an electronic questionnaire. Patients' average age was 66.88 ± 16.17 years. The study adhered to the declaration of Helsinki and complied with § 3 clause 4 of the German Medical Devices Act (MPDG) and § 47 Section 3 of the MPDG.

Results / Discussion

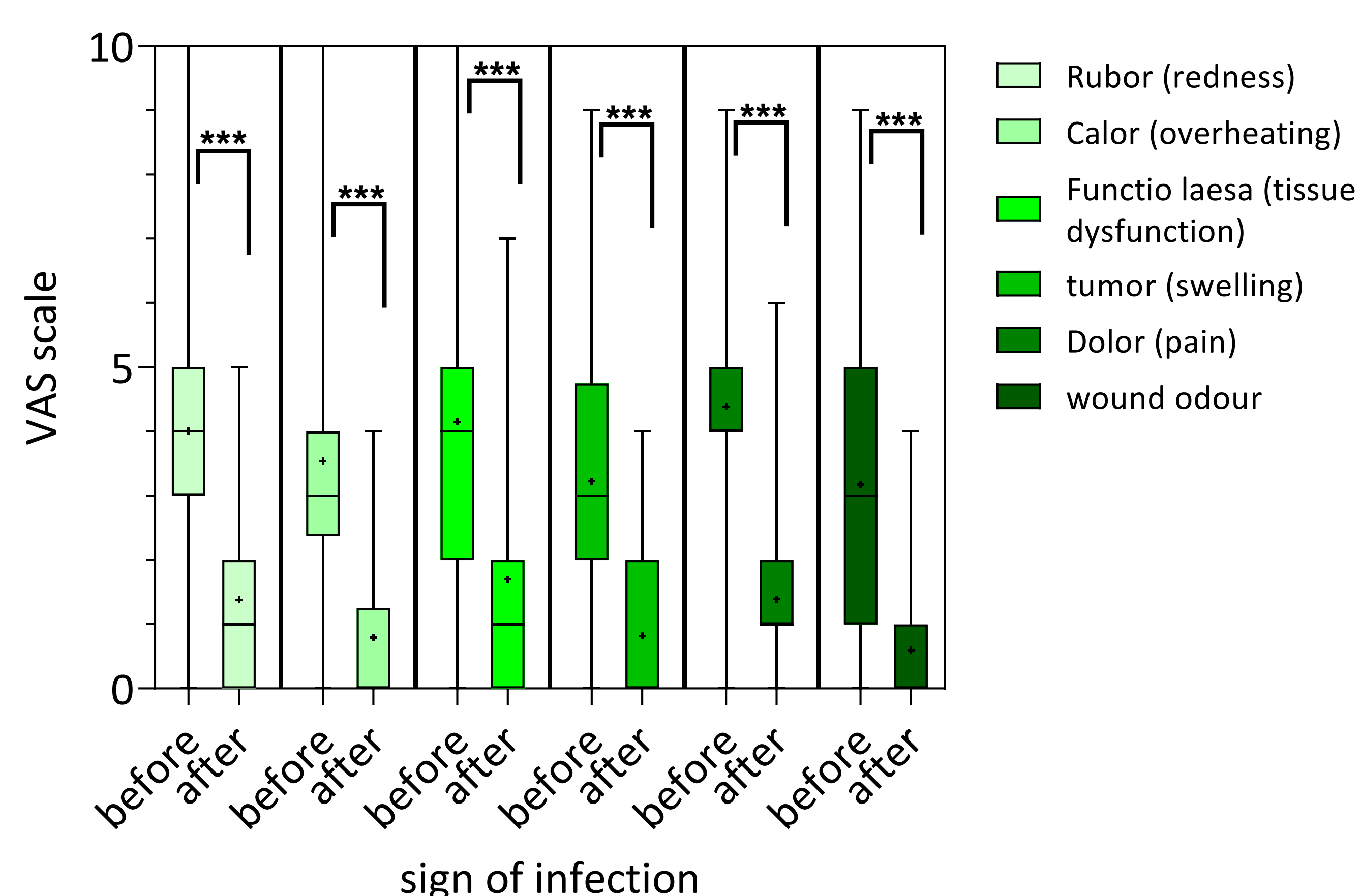
The study included patients with various medical conditions, such as venous leg ulcers (24.69%), postoperative wounds (13.35%), second-degree burns (12.35%), pressure injuries (12.35%), diabetic ulcers (12.35%), traumatic wounds (12.35%), and wounds prone to bleeding (12.35%). Among these wounds, 41% were deep, and 59% were superficial. Regarding exudation, 75% had a moderate level, while 25% had a high level. Over the study period, signs of infection such as redness, overheating, tissue dysfunction, swelling, pain, and wound odour were significantly reduced by an average of 2.64 on the Visual Analog Scale (VAS) [Graph 1]. On average, practitioners successfully achieved their treatment goals, including maintaining wound moisture, facilitating autolytic debridement, protecting the wound edge from maceration, supporting wound healing, managing exudate, controlling existing infections, and preventing new infections. These goals were achieved at a rate of 95.3% using the investigated wound dressing [Graph 2]. In 100% of the wounds, the gelled wound dressing effectively removed cellular debris from the wound. The dressing conformed to the wound in 98.8% of cases. Only 3.7% of the wounds experienced gelation extending beyond the wound's edge, and wound exudate spread beyond the wound edge in only 26% of cases. Biofilm was no longer visible in 60% of the treated wounds that initially showed visible biofilm at the beginning of the treatment. In 31% of cases, biofilm was still partially visible. Maceration was caused by the dressing in only 2.5% of cases [Graph 3]. In all cases, wound exudate was successfully directed into the secondary dressing. The dressing could be removed intact in every case. In 12.4% of cases, easily removable fibre residues remained in the wound. The dressing adhered to the wound bed in 5% of cases. Dressing changes were atraumatic in all cases, and the dressing could be cut to fit the wound in every instance.

It has been demonstrated that the tested wound dressing can provide excellent support to the user in treating infected or infection-prone wounds. Pre-existing infections could be reduced or eliminated. Effective exudate management was facilitated, and wound edges were protected from maceration. Additionally, atraumatic dressing changes, without the product falling apart, contributed to wound healing.

Conclusion

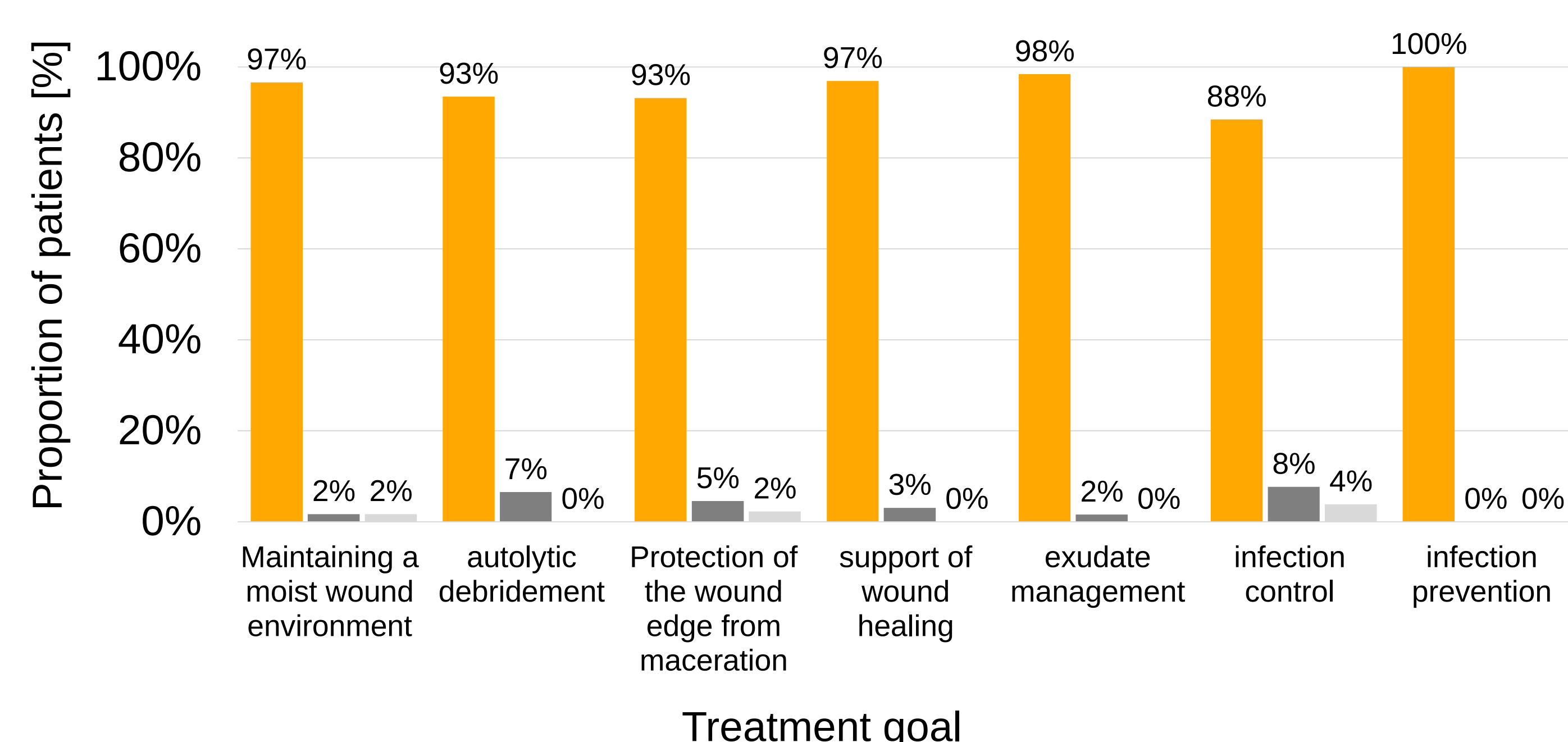
This study demonstrated that the new wound dressing is highly suitable for the management of infected or infection-prone wounds. The presented study provides insights into the product's performance under real-life conditions. Further prospective randomized studies are necessary to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the product's capabilities.

Graph 1: Reduction of infection signs



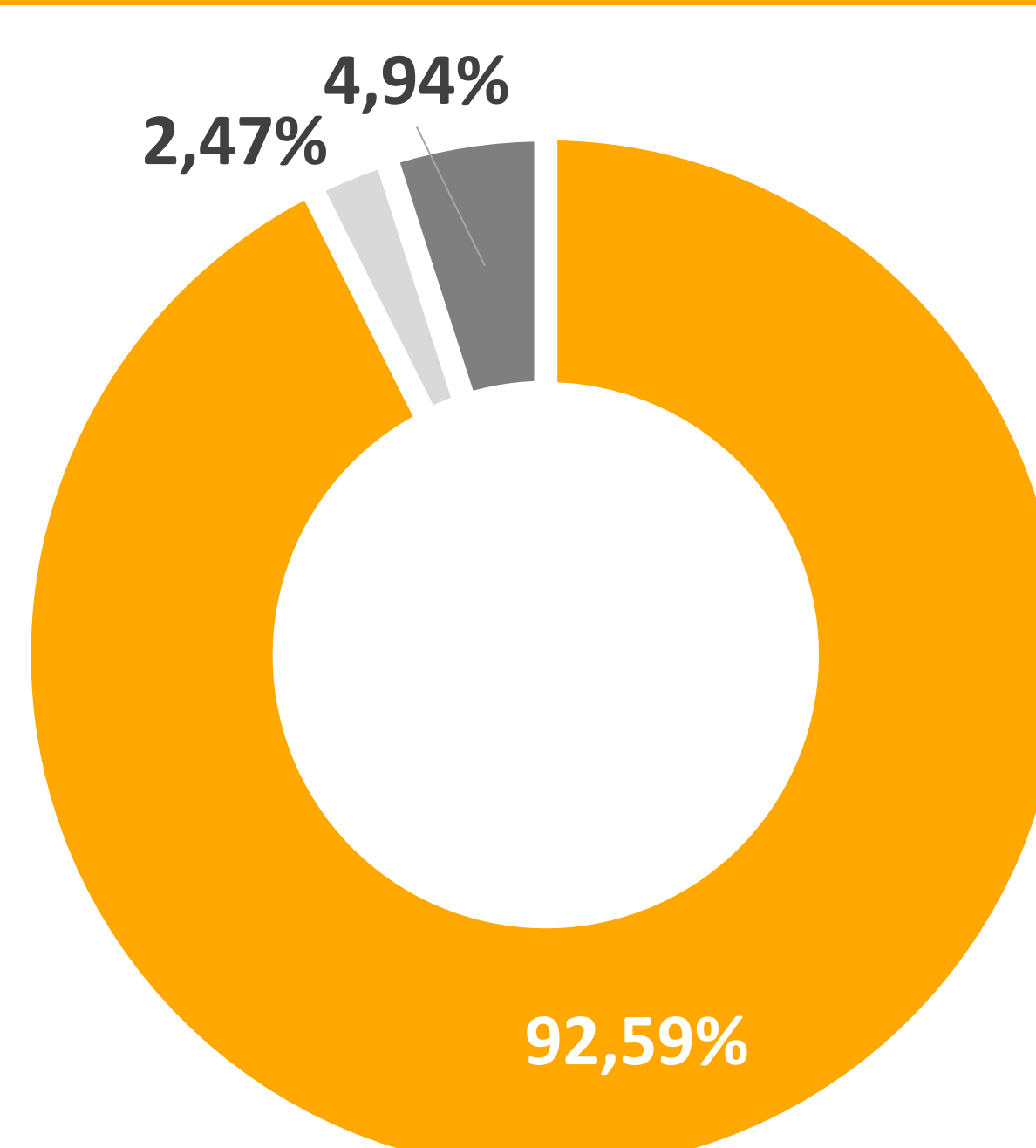
Box-and-whisker plot illustrating the reduction in infection signs throughout the study period. The values before the start of the study (pre) and after the completion of the study (post) are presented. Mean values are denoted by '+'. The whiskers on the graph represent the highest and lowest values reported on the Visual Analog Scale (VAS). The observed reductions are statistically significant ($p > 0.001$).

Graph 2: Fulfilment of treatment goals



Proportion of patients for whom the treatment goals, as set by the user, were fully achieved (■), partially achieved (■) and not achieved (■) using the hydro-active fibre dressing.

Graph 3: Prevention of maceration



Proportion of patients without maceration (■), with maceration caused by the secondary dressing (■) and attributed to the hydro-active fibre dressing (■) during the study period.