HydroBalanced, biocellulose based wound dressing*, inelastic compression and allograft in ulcer treatment of a very old lady.

Mosti G, Magliaro A, Iabichella ML, Picerni P, Mattaliano V
Dept. Angiology, Clinica Barbantini, Lucca, Italy

Introduction:

Aging the healing processes of chronic wounds are prolonged as well as more and more difficult. Therefore the treatment of very old, multimorbide patients is a real challenge. We present the treatment we applied in order to get the healing of a huge and painful ulcer in a very old lady – 100 years old.

Material and Methods

We treated a lady (100 years old) affected by a huge and very painful (VAS: 8) leg ulcer (surface 108 cm^2; duration 32 months).

The ulcer bed was in the granulation phase with fibrin slough covering about 30% of the surface; the leg was slightly swollen. The tibia bone was deformed due to an old fracture and resulted in a very prominent tibial crest. At the duplex examination we could only found minimal arterial disease without any critical flux reduction.

Treatment before coming to our observation: alginates and bandage with cotton gauze bandage just to retain the dressing. We applied a new HydroBalanced bio-cellulose based wound dressing*. An inelastic compression made up with cotton padding and an inelastic cohesive bandage** wrapped up and down from the base of the toes up to 4 centimetres below knee was applied to the leg to provide 30 mm Hg in the supine position (a small Kikuhime probe was used to measure the interface pressure).

Results

The pain was dramatically reduced after 2 weeks (VAS from 8 to 3) and nearly absent (VAS 1-2) after 4 weeks. After three months the ulcer was completely granulating and reduced to 48 cm^2. Then the patient was submitted to an allograft that had a partial take resulting in an ulcer surface reduction to 7 cm^2. At this point we started again the local treatment by HydroBalanced biocellulose based wound dressing* up to the healing. Total duration of treatment was 8 months.

Conclusions

The combined use of HydroBalanced biocellulose based wound dressing*, inelastic bandage* and allograft was effective in inducing the ulcer healing in a hard-to-heal leg ulcer. In particular the dressing* and inelastic bandaging were very effective in pain and swelling control and in promoting granulation tissue and epithelisation both before and after allograft.

*** Suprasorb® X; ** Mollelast® haft**
Lohmann & Rauscher products

Case report:

Patient: Female, 100 years old with a hugh and painful leg (hard-to-heal ulcer)
Treatment before: alginates, cotton bandage without compression
Ulcer duration: 32 months
Treatment: HydroBalanced biocellulose based wound dressing*, inelastic compression made up with cotton padding and an inelastic cohesive bandage**
VAS before / after 4 weeks: 8 / 1-2
Wound size
Start: 108 cm2
After 3 months: 48 cm^2 (complete granulation), than allograft
7 cm^2 rest-wound healed after further 5 months

Day 03.04.07



Day 21.05.07

VAS before / after 4 weeks: 8 / 1-2. Pain nearly absent


Day 11.07.07

Approx. after 3 months. Completely granulating.
Wound reduced to 48 cm^2. Submitted to allograft.


Day 23.08.07

The allograft had a partial take resulting in an ulcer surface reduction to 7 cm^2. Treatment with HydroBalanced biocellulose based wound dressing* was re-started.


Day 03.01.08

Completely healed after 8 months. Trauma of other leg with inflammatory reaction (during her birthday celebration of 100 years).

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