

# TREATMENT OF INFECTED VENOUS LEG ULCERS USING A HYDROBALANCE\* DRESSING WITH PHMB

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## Introduction:

This paper presents a female patient with an infected venous ulcer on her right leg (fig. 1), varicose eczema and a small venous ulcer on her left leg. (fig. 4) The skin of her right leg (fig. 2) is treated with a moisturizing cream and topical corticosteroids. She has a history of cardiac insufficiency and has extensive oedema in both legs.

In February 2006 she developed an ulcer on her right leg, the peri-ulcer skin showed clinical signs of wound infection. (fig. 1) She has hyperthermia and her blood samples confirm the presence of an infection. A bacteriological test (wound swab) of her right leg ulcer showed the presence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

## Material and methods:

Several local treatments have been tried for her right ulcer as well as systemic antibiotics, however the ulcer deteriorated. The wound treatment regime for both ulcers was changed to cleansing with iodine\*\* swabs and rinsing with saline.

A HydroBalance X+PHMB\* dressing was applied and for compression a short stretch bandage system\*\*\* was used.

As a secondary dressing an absorbent pad was applied and fixed with a retention bandage. The same treatment regime was conducted for the ulcer on the left leg.

Fig. 1, 2 and 3 show the evolution of the ulcer on the right leg. Fig. 4 and 5 show the evolution of the ulcer on the left leg.

## Results:

Although the ulcer on her right leg showed a recurrent wound infection with MRSA, the ulcer size had been reduced to 1/3 of the previous surface (fig. 3), within the 10 weeks of treatment, where the ulcer on her left leg had closed. (fig. 5)

## Conclusion:

The patient reported a significant pain reduction direct after the start of the treatment with the HydroBalance X+PHMB dressing\*. Within the 10 weeks of treatment the ulcer on the left leg was closed and the ulcer on the right had reduced with >30% since the start of the treatment with the HydroBalance dressing X+PHMB\*.



Fig. 2

Inflammation and edema is present in the right lower leg.



Fig. 3

The ulcer area (right leg) had reduced with >30% within 10 weeks of treatment.



Fig. 4

Ulcer on the left leg. There is edema present in the lower leg.



Fig.1:

Situation at the start of the treatment with the HydroBalance X+PHMB\* dressing.



Fig. 5

At 10 weeks of treatment the ulcer (left) had closed.

\* HydroBalance dressing X+ PHMB = Suprasorb® X+PHMB, and \*\*\*Rosydal® sys are products of Lohmann & Rauscher

\*\*Betadine® is a product of B Braun