

Get past a point with a biosynthetic HydroBalanced and antimicrobial dressing* in the treatment of the critically colonized venous or mixed leg ulcer

L Prouvost¹, A Thi²

¹Centre Hospitalier de TOURCOING – 59, France

²Lohmann & Rauscher S.A.S., Remiremont – 88, France

Introduction

The antimicrobial polihexanide-containing HydroBalanced wound dressing (PHWD*) is a dressing composed of bio-cellulose and polyhexamethylen biguanide (polihexanide, PHMB). This dressing is able to absorb exudates and to bring moisture to the wound while having an antimicrobial effect. Wounds treated with PHWD* exist more than 5 years and were fibrinous, atonic, blocked in cleaning stage, without response to conventional therapy and not sensitive to silver dressings.

1:

In the illustrated case, the patient was a 76 years old woman with a history of diabetes, venous insufficiency, stripping for varicose veins, sclerotherapy, venous ulcers. She had no peripheral arterial disease.



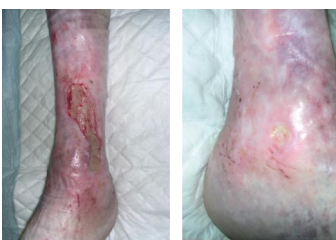
2: She suffered from venous ulcers (internal and external faces of the leg) developing for more than 10 years and refused any kind of surgery.



3: At the beginning of the treatment in July 2002, the ulcer was fibrinous, painful and infected. There were scratching lesions on the peri ulcerous skin. In March 2003, there was a positive trend (no sign of infection, granulation...)



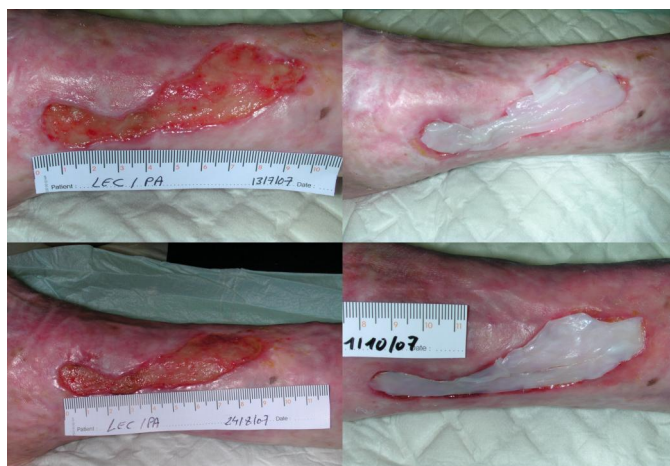
4: The treatment enabled the improvement of the peri ulcerous skin, the disappearance of infection, the acceptance of compression and of a regular mechanical cleaning, and the favourable evolution of the wound, but without obtaining complete healing.



5: The resort to any kind of surgery (stripping, grafts...), sclerotherapy, and even negative pressure therapy were consistently refused. The scratching lesions on peri ulcerous skin were regular.



6: At the beginning of the test with the PHWD*, the ulcer was 80% fibrinous, the bud was pale, the wound contained high levels of staphylococcus aureus, pseudomonas aeruginosa and morganela marganii, the peri ulcerous skin was damaged.



7: The treatment with PHWD* was continued until the debridement was completed.



8: The dressing change was performed every two or three days. A compression therapy was associated to the dressing in all cases.



Conclusions

PHWD* thus enables to get past a difficult point in rebels ulcers healing by:

- providing an ideal moisture
- making possible continuous and quick autolytic debridement
- reducing pain
- making possible the resolution of bacterial imbalance,
- promoting significant growth of granulation tissue,
- promoting a decrease in the size of the wound.

* PHWD = Suprasorb® X+PHMB, Lohmann & Rauscher