

# Improving outcomes in chronic wound healing by following a 2 week pathway using monofilament fibre debridement pad\* and antimicrobial regime

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## Background and Aims

- The presence of biofilm in preventing healing or slowing wound healing has been a major topic of discussion relating to the chronicity of wounds such as leg ulcers and pressure ulcers
- A larger study of 1994 nurses and patient was carried out in 2016<sup>3</sup>
- In those who followed the Biofilm pathway using monofilament fibre debridement pad\* and antimicrobials for 2 weeks, overall outcomes were shown to improve
- This follow up study set out to examine wound healing in a sub group of patients who took part in the larger study

<sup>3</sup> Morris et al (2016) Debridement in practice: a survey of nearly 2000 nurses and their patients, Wounds UK Conference Harrogate 2016, Poster presentation.

## Method

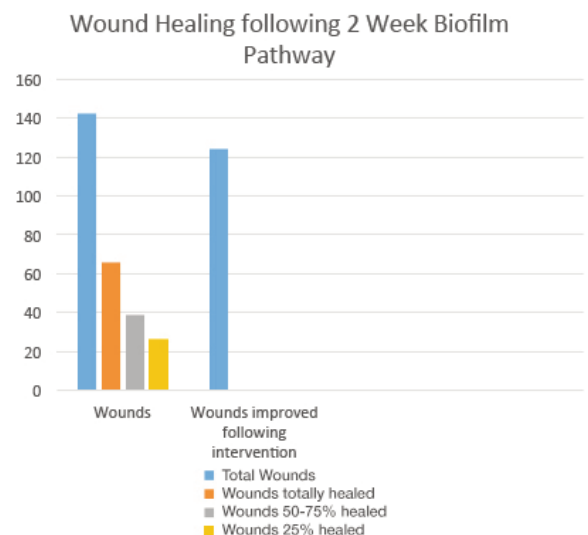
- 500 nurses and patients who had been using a Biofilm treatment pathway combining a monofilament fibre debridement pad and a topical antimicrobial on static wounds for a period of two weeks were surveyed (3 episodes in week 1 and 2 episodes in week 2)
- A total of 142 nurses, out of 171 respondents, completed all questions in the survey
- 82% of the patients (n=156) had a leg ulcer
- All wounds were static and the average duration of the wounds was 6 months prior to the change in treatment (range 2-52 weeks)
- 12 patients had wounds for longer than one year, with one patient having her wound for 11 years. These patients were not included in the statistical analysis

## Results

- A total of 66 (46%) wounds had healed following the change in treatment
- 39 (58%) patients healed in 1 month or less, with 16 healed in 2 months and 11 taking more than 2 months but less than 3 months to heal
- A further 32 patients were recorded as having 50-75% healing since using the pathway, with 26 patients showing 25% healing
- 124 of 142 (87%) patient's wounds improved following the completion of the pathway

## Conclusion

- Chronic static wounds are a costly challenge for health care across Europe
- The original survey of 1,994 nurses demonstrated higher satisfaction with outcomes when following the biofilm pathway compared with one use of monofilament fibre debridement pad per week
- It can be concluded that there is a positive effect from using a monofilament fibre debridement pad in combination with antimicrobial dressings to remove and prevent biofilm build up
- With 46% of patients healing following the treatment, this could result in significant cost savings to the health service and improved outcomes for patients with static chronic wounds
- **Limitations:** This survey was non-comparative, not blinded and nurses were self selecting.



<sup>1</sup> Activa L&R UK

<sup>2</sup> Lohmann & Rauscher

<sup>3</sup> Morris et al (2016) Debridement in practice: a survey of nearly 2000 nurses and their patients, Wounds UK Conference Harrogate 2016, Poster presentation.

\*Debrisoft® – Activa L&R

Taken from an eposter presentation at Harrogate 2017