Successful treatment of a 96 year-old patient with an infected wound after osteosynthesis

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Aim:
Complex case management in a fragile elderly patient to achieve an optimal outcome.

Method:
The 96 year-old female had a deep wound infection after osteosynthesis of her left ankle. In the hospital she was treated with negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT). Upon arrival on March 2, 2017 in the rehabilitation centre the wound surface was 8 x 3 cm, the wound bed contained 10% yellow and 90% granulation tissue with some hyper-granulation present. The wound edges were non-vital and there was oedema in her left ankle. The surrounding skin was slightly red.

Results:
The patient received nutritional supplements twice daily. NPWT was discontinued and the treatment regime now comprised: Debridement using a monofilament¹ pad, followed by cleansing with water and disinfection with an antiseptic. The peri-wound skin was protected with a spray on film, a collagen² and an alginate³ dressing were covered with a superabsorbent pad fixed with an adhesive film dressing.³ Dressing changes were on average twice weekly. For compression 2 layers (20 mmHg) of a tubular compression⁵ system were applied during the day and reduced to one layer at night. Wound closure was achieved after 41 days of treatment. The patient continued with the compression system for another 6 weeks to protect the fragile area and to prevent oedema from reoccurring.

Conclusion:
Complex wound closure was achieved in a comfortable fashion that suited the individual needs of this elderly fragile patient.

Debrisoft¹, Suprasorb C², Vliwasorb³ Actico silk⁴ are all products of Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH.