

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

Ria van Dam¹, Alice van den Wijngaard²

Sint Jacob

1. RN, Pressure Ulcer Specialist, Stichting Sint Jacob, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 2. RN, Wond & Compressie Specialist, Lohmann & Rauscher, Almere, The Netherlands

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.⁴ 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.



02-03-2017
Start of treatment. Wound size 8 x 3 cm.
Treatment: Cleansing with water and a monofilament¹ pad, followed by an antiseptic soak for 5 minutes.
The wound was covered with a collagen² dressing, a silver containing alginate³ and a super absorbent⁴ pad. For compression 2 light compression stockings⁴ were used. At night 1 stocking was left in place.



06-03-2017



07-03-2017
Collagen² dressing in place.



07-03-2017
Wound size had reduced to 7 x 2 cm. Wound treatment was continued with the same regime.



28-03-2017
Wound size 5 x 1 cm. The same treatment regime was continued.



28-03-2017
Hypergranulation was removed with a monofilament¹ pad. The wound bed is covered with healthy granulation tissue.



04-04-2017
Wound size 5 x 1 cm.



11-04-2017
Wound was closed after 41 days.