

# Clinical Efficacy of a Debridement Product, 2-layer or Tubular Compression – Evaluated in Leg Ulcer Patients with Rhagades and Hyperkeratosis

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## Background:

Chronic oedema is multifactorial and often associated with ageing. Skin disorders frequently occur in individuals with venous disease as well as lymphoedema. Hyperkeratosis is the build-up of keratin on the skin's surface, causing the skin to appear dry and scaly. Removing the dry scaly skin allows emollients to penetrate, rebuilding the mortar and rehydrating the skin (Fig 1). Understanding the underlying cause of oedema helps the clinician in defining a comprehensive total treatment approach.

## Methods:

A clinical pathway was developed for patients with chronic oedema, which included debridement\* of the wound bed and removal of scales as well as skin care. Depending on the type of oedema and stage a 2-layer\*\* rigid bandage system or a tubular\*\*\* bandage system was applied. Treatment outcome was evaluated using case ascertainment.

## Results :

Till today 282 patients have been treated with the regime outlined in the clinical pathway. Most patients visited the wound healing clinic as out-patients. Already after 4 months of treatment a marked improvement was shown. Fig 2 shows a typical case.

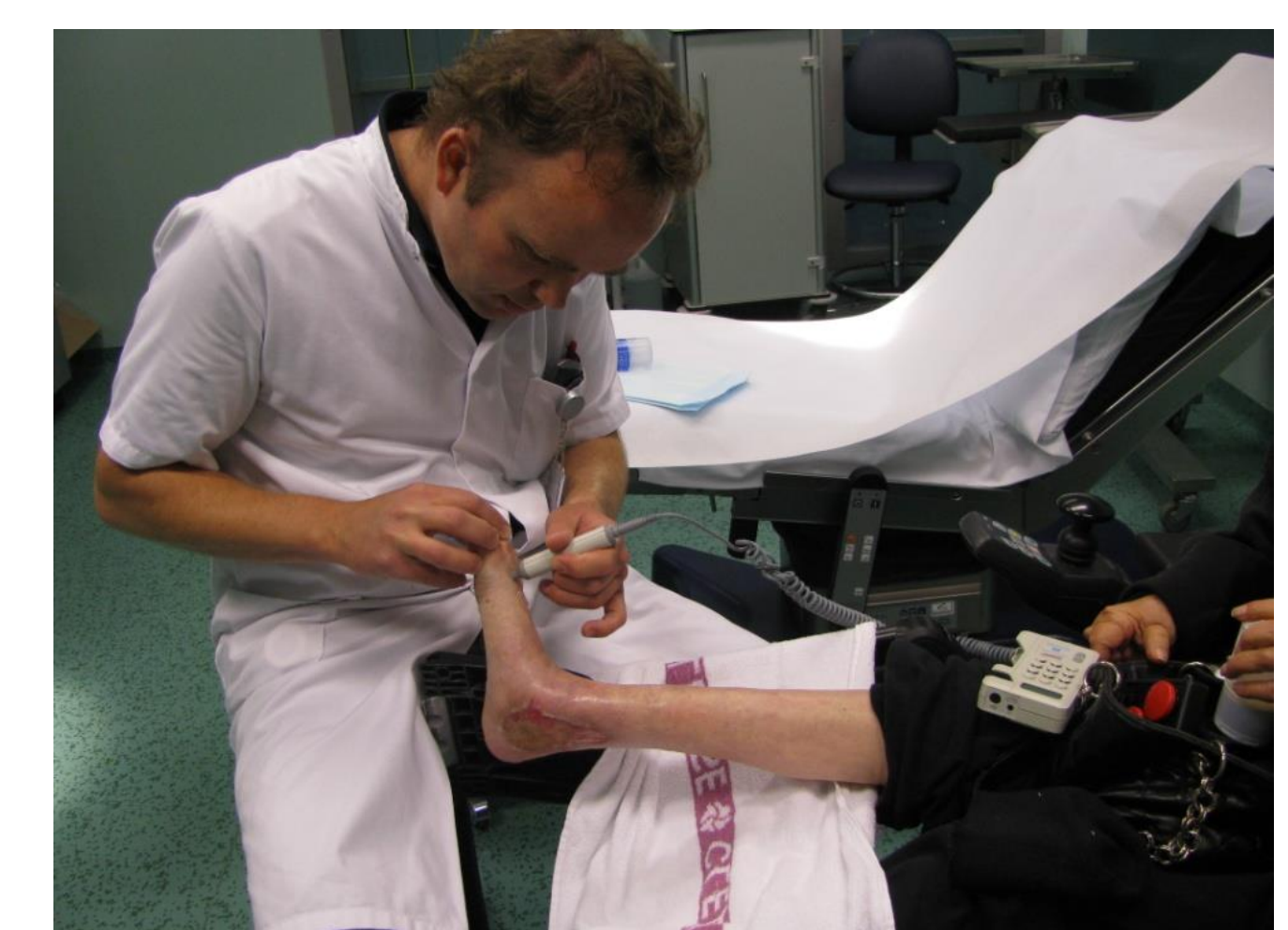
## Conclusion :

- ✓ Preparation of the skin is a vital part in the treatment of patients with oedema and is equally important as preparation of the wound bed.<sup>1-3</sup>
- ✓ Thorough skin hygiene, exercise and rigid compression bandages in the treatment phase followed by compression garments in the maintenance phase, was demonstrated to be successful.

Fig 1: Debridement session



Debridement session using a \*monofilament debridement product.



Sharp debridement is followed by debridement with a \*monofilament debridement product.

## References:

1. Cox NH. Br J Dermatol 2006;155(5): 947–50
2. Benbow M. J Comm Nurs 2011; 25(5): 17–18
3. Hämmerle G, et al. Br J Nurs. 2011;20: 6, S35–42

Fig 2: A typical patient case



Day 0 - Patient with long-standing lymphoedema in both legs.



Day 0: During debridement of the skin and wound bed.



Week 4: The skin is clean and the oedema has reduced.

\*Debrisoft , \*\*Rosidal TCS, \*\*\*Actico Silk, Lohmann & Rauscher