

COST BENEFITS IN USING A MICROFIBER DEBRIDEMENT PAD IN THE HEALING OF A VENOUS LEG ULCER

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INTRODUCTION

- In community home care some patients wish to be self-reliant, to be able to continue working and not having to wait for the nurse to perform the wound care.
- The conventional method used for cleaning the wound is with tap water, gauze and tweezers. This is not always sufficient since most wounds need debridement to heal¹
- Wounds behind the malleoli are prone to slough development and heal slowly²
- Non sufficient debridement delay's healing and exposes the patient to increased risk of complications¹



Hypothesis

By improving debridement of the wound bed, combined with patient self reliance, healing will accelerate and the wound will heal in shorter time, which will be cost beneficial.

Aim

To illustrate the cost benefits by using a microfiber debridement pad compared to conventional treatment

Conventional treatment until September 2012

- 65-year-old male with recurrent venous leg ulcers, left medial malleolus. Transplanted x2.
- Wound size: 5,55 cm² and 5 mm in depth.
- Healing time: approximately 9 months (last three times)
- Cleaning method: Tap water, gauze and tweezers – twice a week for 7 minutes.
- Economics: Nurse visits required 28 times during 9 months, of 25 minutes duration. Nurse hour cost 65 €³
- Bandage costs: 11,5 €⁴



Treatment with Debrisoft® debridement pad

First result after 5 weeks:

- 2,1 cm² and 3 mm in depth



- Method: Debridement pad together with tap water twice a week for 2-3 minutes
- Economics: Nurse visits 3 times for 20 minutes, once for 15 minutes. Nurse hour cost 65 €³
- The patient used Debrisoft® once
- Bandage costs: approximately 27 €⁴

Result in December 2012

3 months later:

- Wound size: 0,4 cm² and 1 mm in depth



Economics:

- The patient himself used Debrisoft® six times during the last 2,5 months.
- Nurse visits required 4 times in the last 2,5 months for 15 minutes. Nurse hour cost 65 €³
- Bandage costs: approximately 50 €⁴

Final result

Conventional treatment with tap water, gauze and tweezers:

- 28 nurse visits
- 25 minutes duration
- 65 €³ per nurse hour
- 11,5 € product expenses

Total: 773 €

Debrisoft®

- 4 nurse visits of 20 minutes duration
- 4 nurse visits of 15 minutes duration
- 6 treatments by the patient himself
- 65 €³ per nurse hour
- 77 € product expenses

Total: 230 €

Additional treatment with compression stockings was maintained in both treatments.

Healing completed February 2013



Conclusion

Treatment, with the microfiber debridement pad Debrisoft®, makes the wound easier to keep clean promoting healing and it gives an economical advantage and a shorter healing time, compared to conventional treatment.

References

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- 4. Self adjusted community prices Gentofte Community, 2012