

# Cost-Effective Healing of Shallow Chronic and Non-Chronic Wounds

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## Introduction

The secret to efficient, cost-effective wound care is naturally the use of the correct dressing which will meet the special needs of each wound. Substituting with cheaper, similar products is false economy. Any delay in wound healing increases the cost.

### Case 1

Mrs. B., a 63 year old lady, had radiotherapy for basal cell carcinoma on the bridge of her nose in 1982. Poor circulation and radio-necrosis caused an ulcer until August, 1996. **Elasto-Gel™** was applied on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1996. By the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1996 the ulcer was healed. Further use of **Elasto-Gel™** has improved the general condition of the area. Only two pieces 2cm x 2cm were used. Plastic surgery had been planned and was canceled.

### Case 2

Mr. H., a 50 year old man, had a basal cell carcinoma removed from his cheek below his right eye. The resulting 1.5cm x 1.5cm x 1cm deep cavity was successfully lined with a skin graft. Plastic surgery was planned for one year later, had there been no sign of carcinoma. **Elasto-Gel™** was cut, inserted into the cavity and held down with Micropore plaster. It was removed for cleaning. Now, after two month, the cavity is 2mm deep. Only two pieces of **Elasto-Gel™** were used and plastic surgery has been canceled.

### Case 3

Mr. J.S., a 58 year old man, had carcinoma in the mouth. Radical surgery was performed. Skin, muscle and fascia were taken from his forearm to repair the defect. The donor site was covered with a thin skin graft. The hollow was 1cm deep. **Elasto-Gel™** was applied from the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 1996. By the 26<sup>th</sup> of July the wound had healed and the depression raised. Only one piece of 4cmx6cm **Elasto-Gel™** was used. Not only was it cost effective, but the cosmetic result was good.

### Case 4

Mr. G., a 43 year old male, had a malignant melanoma on his back. This was removed by wide incision 7cm in diameter and was lined with a skin graft, which healed well. The depression was 1.5cm deep. On the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1997 half a 4x6 inch **Elasto-Gel™** was applied, buy the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 1997 the depression was only 1mm deep. For a young man who enjoys going to the beach, a good cosmetic effect is appreciated.

### Case 5

Mrs. D. had a burn on her wrist. It was 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and healed in 3 weeks with one 2x3 inch **Elasto-Gel™**. She had abdominal cancer and died before the final photograph.

### Case 6

Mrs. F. had a dehiscd abdominal wound. It healed in one month with one piece of **Elasto-Gel™**. She also died from cancer before the final photograph.

## Conclusion

**Elasto-Gel™** is very cost-effective on non-malignant wounds. It can be removed, wiped gently with damp cotton gauze, dabbed dry and re-applied. The wound should not be producing a lot of exudate. The cases in this study would have cost \$111.00 altogether, but only cost \$5.48. **Elasto-Gel™** has a place in plastic surgery or wound healing requiring a good cosmetic result. Also after laser removal of wrinkles or acne. It seems to work by depriving the area of oxygen so capillaries grow into these areas.

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