

USE OF A HYDROGEL DRESSING* IN MULTIPLE SETTINGS

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ABSTRACT

Research has shown that optimal wound healing occurs in a moist environment. The hydrogel dressing* used is a mixture of water and glycerine in a polymer matrix which provides moisture to a dry wound bed. The dressing will absorb 2.5 to 3 times its weight in fluids absorbing excess exudate from a wet wound to promote a healing environment. It also facilitates autolytic debridement of necrotic tissue. It meets Medicare criteria for autolytic debridement and is reimbursed as a primary dressing. The hydrogel dressing* was used for a variety of wounds, including breast tumors, skin lesions, highly draining leg ulcers, skin tears, and necrotic pressure ulcers. This hydrogel dressing* was selected by the ET nurses for its ability to absorb, its atraumatic removal and ability to control odor.

Conclusion: The hydrogel dressing* met the desired wound care goals and provided the moist environment necessary for maintenance or healing. The product was cost effective, Medicare reimbursable, user friendly, and decreased nursing time in dressing changes. Patients reported decreased pain, describing the dressing as "soothing" and "comfortable".

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USE OF

PURPOSE

To demonstrate the versatility and effectiveness of a hydrogel dressing for the management of a variety of wounds.

RATIONALE

Research has shown that optimal wound healing occurs in a moist environment.¹ The hydrogel dressing* is a mixture of water and glycerine in a polymer matrix,² which provides moisture to a dry wound bed. The dressing will absorb 2.5 to 3 times its weight in fluid, absorbing excess exudate from a wet wound to promote a healing environment. This moist environment also facilitates autolytic debridement of necrotic tissue. The dressing meets the Medicare criteria for autolytic debridement and may be used and reimbursed as a primary dressing.³

METHODOLOGY

The hydrogel dressing* was used for a variety of wounds, including breast tumor, skin lesions, highly draining leg ulcers, skin tears, and necrotic pressure ulcers. This dressing was selected after evaluation by the ET nurses for its characteristics of absorbency, atraumatic removal, and ability to absorb odors.

Thigh



Thigh



Back



Ankle



Venous Stasis Leg Ulcer

- Absorbs excessive drainage
- Autolytic debridement
- No maceration

Skin Lesions

- Adheres to wound without tissue destruction
- Protects from external contamination
- Atraumatic removal
- Allows use of topical ointments

Effects of radiation

- Patient comfort by cushioning wound
- Promote infection-free environment
- Atraumatic removal
- Appropriate for any wet wounds

Shin



Skin Tear

- Non-traumatic
- Absorbs drainage
- Conducive to wound healing

Glycerin Sheet H

A HYDROGEL SHEET* DRESSING IN MULTIPLE SETTINGS

RESULTS

The hydrogel dressing* achieved the goals of wound care for the referenced wounds.

CONCLUSION

The hydrogel dressing* met the desired wound care goals and provided the moist environment necessary for maintenance or healing. The product was cost effective, medicare reimbursable, user friendly, and decreased nursing time in dressing changes. Patients reported decreased pain, describing the dressing as "soothing" and "comfortable."

REFERENCES

*Elastogel, Southwest Technologies, Incorporated. Kansas City, MO.

1. Bryant, Ruth. Acute and Chronic Wound: Nursing Management. Mosby Yearbook, 1992, pp. 31-61.
2. Chang, Francis, Ph.D., Phoebe Change, Ph.D., Ken Benson, R.T.T., Frederick Share, M.D.. Study of Elasto-gel pads used as surface bolus material in high energy photon and electron therapy. Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys. Vol. 22, pp 191-193.
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Coccyx



Pressure ulcer

- Autolytic debridement
- Promotes moist wound environment for healing
- Prepares for rotation flap
- Insulates wound
- Fills dead space

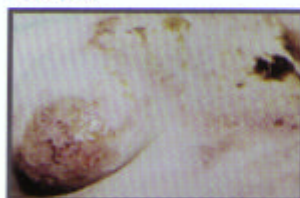
Coccyx



Breast



Breast



Breast Tumor

- Odor control
- Adheres yet atraumatic removal
- Absorbs drainage
- Easy to apply
- Enhances patient dignity

Reimbursement Issues: Medicare

Hydrogel: Dressings with hydrating and protective properties, varying degrees of absorption, with or without border.

Indications: Surface wounds with varying degrees of exudate, primary or secondary dressing.

Allowable: Thirty (30) per month or changes daily

Considerations:

1. Qualifies for autolytic debridement
2. Cost effective
3. Allowable provides greater latitude in frequency of wound care

e-Based
hydrogel*

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