

Using a Glycerine Based Dressing* for Preventing and Treating Pathologic Scars in Burns

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Introduction

Preliminary results indicated that little or no pathologic scars occur when a glycerine based hydrogel dressing was used in burns. Reduction of pathologic scars covered by this hydrogel has also been reported.

Hypothesis

Covering burn wounds with this dressing prevented pathologic scars from forming and covering pathologic scars with this hydrogel results in softening and reduction of scar.

Methodology

The hydrogel was used for preventing and treating of pathologic scars in 137 cases, between 1993 and 1997. A randomized clinical trial for treatment of pathologic scars using a strict protocol involving 8 patients was conducted in which the hydrogel gave less scarring than expected: very good 75%, good 20%, and suitable 5%. Results of the comparative study for scar reduction showed the therapeutical effect of the hydrogel is slower than the silicon product in this limited study. The silicon can be used only after the wound is completely healed and only by strict preparation.

Conclusions

The glycerine based hydrogel dressing is an effective dressing for the prevention and management of evolving pathologic scars with or without reconstructive operations.

**Elasto-Gel™*, Southwest Technologies, Inc., North Kansas City, Missouri

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