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“Unna Boots”

Beth Wentz of General Medical, and Dr. Ed Stout of Southwest Technologies, recently called on Edna Atwater, R.N., head nurse in the Dermatology Clinic and Duke University, to discuss the use of Elasto-Gel Bacteriostatic Wound Dressings. Ms. Atwater relayed that she has been using Elasto-Gel for several years and shared some of her experiences with us.

She said that Elasto-Gel is used routinely under “Unna Boots” at Duke. Unna Boots are used to treat leg ulcers. When applied, they usually remain in place for 7 to 10 days before changing. Usually, when the boot is removed, there is a strong offensive aroma (t really stinks!). Ms. Atwater stated, “Nearly any dressing will work with the Unna Boot, but with Elasto-Gel, the odor is nearly eliminated”. She said, “You only have to tell the interns (residents) once to use Elasto-Gel”.

She also told us about a patient with diabetic foot ulcers, “which had been treated with literally every other kind of dressing, but only healed with Elasto-Gel.” The wounds completely healed, but later new ones developed because of the patient’s refusal to follow proper care and preventive life styles.

She also stated that she uses an alginate dressing in addition to Elasto-Gel for wounds with lots of exudate (drainage). Elasto-Gel is used routinely as a wound dressing in the Dermatology Department.

Edna frequently gives her standard lecture on wound care and treatment methods, in which she states there is no one dressing for all types of wounds, but Elasto-Gel Bacteriostatic Dressings are included as a favorite dressing. Edna indicated she would be willing to take calls and answer questions about the use of Elasto-Gel and wound care.

Ed Stout
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