

Introduction

CovaWound™ Alginate is a primary wound dressing made from the calcium salt of alginic acid rich in mannuronic acid. In contrast to commonly used hydrofibers, CovaWound™ Alginate is made entirely of natural materials. When the dressing comes into contact with wound exudate it forms a soft, hydrophilic, gas permeable gel, conforming to the contours of the wound to provide a micro-environment that facilitates wound healing and prevents maceration. In tests completed by The Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory (SMTL) the dressing is also shown to have high wet force break properties, which indicate a high tensile strength when wet.



Methods

Patients recruited into the case series evaluation had complex co-morbidities and wounds of long duration which were “hard-to-heal”. Upon examination all wounds were moderately to highly exuding and of mixed, venous or diabetic foot aetiology without clinical features of infection. All cases were reviewed over a four-week period where standard care was provided. A range of objective measures evaluating the wound and the wound dressing were obtained including wound tracing and wound photographs, which were performed once a week. Patients were also asked to provide subjective feedback.

Results

Nine patients with lower leg wound aetiologies were recruited into this case series evaluation. Five patients had venous leg ulcers (VLU), three had mixed aetiology leg ulcers (MLU) and one had a traumatic injury to the leg. None of the patients experienced infection during the 4-week evaluation. There were no signs of maceration and all wounds showed an increase in the percentage of granulation tissue in the wound bed. All patients tolerated the dressing under compression therapy, and no adverse events were evident during the evaluation.

Discussion

CovaWound™ Alginate is indicated for moderate to highly exuding wounds of differing aetiology. The dressing was very good at controlling exudate and was both easy to apply and remove. Over the four-week case series evaluation none of the patients developed clinical features of wound infection. The dressing demonstrated high absorbency and there were no contra-indications associated with peri-wound maceration of the surrounding skin. Clinicians reported that the dressing was highly conformable and retained its integrity on removal from the wound bed.

Conclusion

The preliminary findings from this case series evaluation suggests that CovaWound™ Alginate is a highly absorbent alginate dressing that holds exudate in the dressing preventing maceration and excoriation to the peri-wound skin. There was no additional pain during dressing changes demonstrating that CovaWound™ Alginate is an effective dressing when used under compression therapy.

Case Study 1

A 61 year old presenting with an arterial leg ulcer of 7 year duration complicated by the skin condition scleroderma. Moderate exudate slough present at base of wound. Measurement 10.8cm² at week 1



Outcome

- Increase in granulation tissue
- No pain on dressing removal
- No adherence to wound bed
- No maceration to surrounding skin

Case Study 2

A 64-year-old presenting with a venous leg ulcer of 2½ year duration complicated by the skin condition atrophe blanche. Moderate exudate, fibrin and granulation tissue at base of wound. Measurement 1.4cm² at week 1



Outcome

- Increase in granulation tissue
- No pain upon dressing removal
- Decrease in overall pain
- No adherence to wound bed
- No maceration of surrounding skin