NHS
Birmingham Women's and Children's
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Implementation of a cost-effective silicone foam dressing within Birmingham Children's Hospital.

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Introduction

Birmingham Children's Hospital is one of the UK's leading specialist paediatric centres caring for sick and young children up to the age of 16. Our mission is to provide outstanding care and treatment, to share and spread new knowledge and practice, and to always be at the forefront of what is possible.

As a trust, we had a strategic objective to cost save on our dressing spend. We were approached by Covalon Technologies (Europe) Ltd. and shown a relatively newly launched silicone bordered dressing; CovaWound™ Silicone Foam (Bordered). When considering a switch to a newer brand it was of paramount importance to ensure quality alongside any cost savings. Our initial thoughts on the CovaWound™ Silicone Foam (Bordered) dressing was that it felt good quality, looked similar in appearance to our current silicone foam (bordered) dressings, but could also offer a substantial cost saving.

The process within the trust is to attend our multi-disciplinary procurement group to show them the sourced alternative. The group includes infection control nurses, the lead safety nurse, the materials management supervisor plus many other professionals. The dressings were reviewed by the group who gave positive feedback and a positive discussion was had with regards to product description, suitability and finally the annual cost saving of approximately 33% by switching to this dressing. It was therefore agreed that a trial of CovaWound™ Silicone Foam (Bordered) could commence.

Methods

As a hospital with a huge range of specialities, it was important that an extensive evaluation process took place. The dressing was trialled in plastic surgery predominantly but with extensive consideration and reviews from hand surgeons, general surgery, cardiac surgeons, the dermatology team, the epidermolysis bullosa team and within the paediatric intensive care unit. This was completed over a 6-month period.

It was important as a trust to obtain evaluations from children, parents and clinicians. The children we care for are our priority and it was important to ensure they gave an honest evaluation of the dressing.

Initially Covalon provided an adult orientated evaluation form, which we felt was not user friendly towards our target audience in paediatrics. We worked with Covalon to provide a user friendly evaluation that encouraged children to take part and give their thoughts and feelings. Once this was created we looked at what our criteria for the trial would be, and agreed we would have no exclusion criteria unless allergy to silicone was known.
This meant we could trial the dressings on all wounds. Our evaluation form consisted of multiple choice questions aimed at both the health professional and the patient. Our most important question for the patient was ensuring the dressing was comfortable both when in place but also on removal. Questions were kept short and simple allowing the patient to easily understand what was being asked. The patients were asked a Yes or No question 'Was the dressing comfortable and was it gentle to remove?' The form was more in-depth for health professionals so we could obtain more information about the wound type, the usual dressing used and where the location of the wound was. The healthcare professionals were asked to compare the following to the usual dressing; Ease of application, Patient comfort, Pain on removal, Ease of removal, Condition of surrounding skin and if the dressing remained in place for the desired time. It was a tick box exercise where 'better, same or worse' were used to compare CovaWound™ Silicone Foam (Bordered) against the usual dressing choice.

Results and Discussion

A total of 20 evaluations were fully completed, with all information needed. Ideally we would have liked more evaluations completed however, due to time restraints in clinic, shortage of nursing staff and complexity of the child some evaluations were not filled out completely. The completed evaluations involved patients ranging from 7 months to 15 years of age (figure 1). The wound type varied in aetiology with the most common wounds being post surgical and pressure areas (figure 2). Dressing locations varied across all limbs, flank, scalp and back.

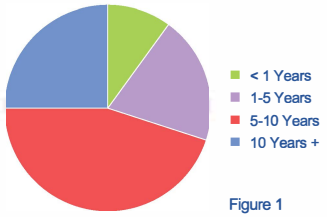

Figure 1

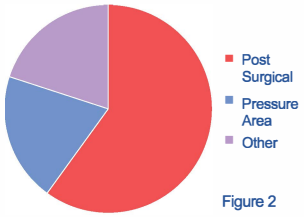

Figure 2

Patient responses from the evaluation were very positive with 100% of patients reporting that the dressing was both comfortable to wear and gentle to remove. 100% of clinicians rated the dressing as good, very good or excellent compared to the usual dressing, with 90% of responses rating CovaWound™ Silicone Foam (Bordered) as excellent (figure 3).

Additionally, clinician responses were found to be overwhelmingly positive with findings showing that in every condition CovaWound™ Silicone Foam (Bordered) was rated as the same or better compared to the usual dressing used in the Trust (figure 4).

Overall Comparison with usual dressing
Figure 3

General feedback was also gathered, and again showed positive responses from the children, parents and their clinicians. Examples of feedback received from parents and the children are shown in the speech bubbles below.

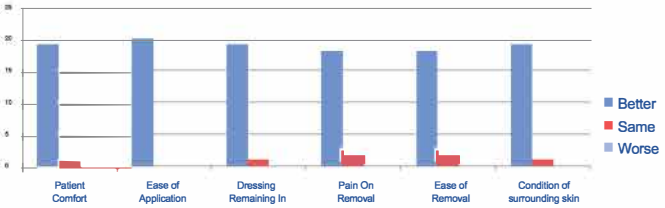

Figure 4

After discussion with the procurement group and infection control who confirmed no increase in wound infections, we were able to implement the dressings into the trust. To raise awareness, two events were held within the hospital with the representatives from the new dressing suppliers. This allowed clinicians to become familiar with the dressing and ask any questions prior to the roll out.

Conclusion

Overall, the findings were very positive with results consistently showing that dressings were easy to apply, stayed in place and were easy and pain free to remove. The new dressing offers considerable potential savings and by utilising a multidisciplinary evaluation process we were able to assess the quality and effectiveness of the dressing prior to implementation. We are honoured to be the 1st Children's Hospital to successfully convert to this silicone dressing.

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