The added value of silver dressings in the treatment of chronic leg ulcers

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Introduction

Sometimes venous leg ulcers don't respond to intensive wound care with several local treatments after months or even years. Changing the management to a Nanocrystalline Silver† Dressing can restore the bacterial balance. This is often the reason why wound healing can be improved obviously. Following case studies illustrate these clinical experiences. In every case, we combined the silver dressing with an appropriate compression bandage therapy.

Case 1

- Female 63 years old
- Venous leg ulcer: since 3 years
- Bacteria: 1. Klebsiella oxytoca +
  2. Staphylococcus aureus +++

Previous local treatments

- Silversulfadiazine ointment
- Alginates
- Hydrocolloids

Result

After 13 weeks ACTICOAT™ 7: total wound healing

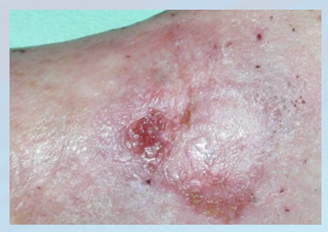
23/02/04

01/03/04

02/04/04

19/04/04

05/05/04


26/05/04

Case 2

- Female 67 years old
- Venous leg ulcer: since 6 months
- Bacteria: Staphylococcus aureus +

Previous local treatments

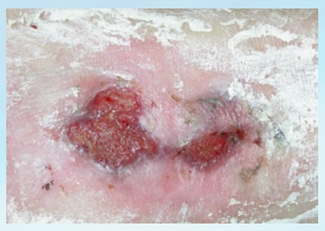
- Mupirocin ointment
- Foam dressings
- Hydrofiber dressing

Result

After 19 weeks ACTICOAT 7: total wound healing

18/12/03

06/01/04


20/01/04

17/02/04

13/04/04

05/05/04

Case 3

- Female 77 years old
- Venous leg ulcer: since 2 years
- Bacteria: 1. Staphylococcus aureus +++
  2. Pseudomonas aeruginosa +
  3. Proteus mirabilis +
  4. Streptococcus D +

Previous local treatments

- Foam dressings
- Alginates
- Hyaluronic dressing

Result

After 20 weeks ACTICOAT 7: total wound healing

02/09/03

27/11/03

11/12/03

02/01/04

17/02/04

16/03/04

Case 4

- Female 84 years old
- Venous leg ulcer: since 35 years
- Bacteria: Staphylococcus aureus +

Previous local treatments

- Alginates, Foams, Polyacrylate dressing
- VAC therapy
- Punch grafts
- Muscle flap in combination with skin graft

Result

After 15 months ACTICOAT 7: obviously decreased wound surface

29/10/02

15/11/02

23/11/02

03/04/03

03/04/03

29/01/04

Conclusion

Bacterial burden in wounds is a persistent problem in wound management. The antibacterial properties of silver products have long been recognised. Several cases on difficult healing venous leg ulcers showed a positive response with the topical use of ACTICOAT 7. Silver dressings are not the first choice of topical treatment, but can be a solution on stagnating venous ulcers, caused by bacterial imbalance.

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† Nanocrystalline Silver is a patented technology of NUCRYST Pharmaceuticals Corp.

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