

An evaluation of Advadraw Spiral®

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Advadraw Spiral®

An absorbent, non-adherent primary wound contact layer with a wicking effect. The dressing comprises of a soft viscose and polyester mechanically bonded highly absorbent pad, with an integrated central wicking layer backed each side with a perforated permeable wound contact layer.

Fluid from the wound bed is rapidly absorbed into the pad and distributed by the central layer resulting in sustained movement of exudate from a wound bed.

Introduction

Capillary action dressings are cotton-layered dressings that are designed to draw or wick interstitial fluid from the wound and through the dressings' material. They have been used on infected, heavily exuding, venous leg ulcers, pressure ulcers, cavity wounds and non-healing wounds. In the past the practitioner has been instructed to cut the capillary action dressing into disks, ropes or ribbons to fit small cavities or ensure the dressing material follows the contours of the wound bed. However, Advancis Medical has recently released a capillary action dressing 'Advadraw Spiral®' that is already cut into a spiral or ribbon. The author evaluated this new design of dressing to investigate if this was of any advantage in clinical practice.

Methodology

The dressing was evaluated on a number of patients within University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust. The patients were chosen by the Tissue Viability Team as suitable to be included in the evaluation if they had small cavity wounds that required packing. Wound assessments were conducted at the beginning of the evaluation and then periodically throughout it to assess:

- the size and nature of the wound
- the status of the wound
- the patients satisfaction and comfort
- exudate control
- ease of application and removal

Case Study One



Mr A was a diabetic patient admitted with cellulitis of his foot. He had a forefoot amputation and then further debridement of the wound bed leaving a deep sinus therefore preventing us from using VAC therapy. Advadraw® successfully controlled the exudate and the thin size of the spiral was perfect for the shape of this wound.



Case Study Two



Mr F was a young diabetic patient admitted for deterioration in his neuropathic foot ulcers. They showed signs of infection on admission and were producing moderate amounts of exudate. We used Advadraw® in place of vacutex and found that it didn't adhere to the wound bed as much and the patient felt it was much more comfortable whilst in place. It successfully debrided the sinus and the wound bed and reduced the infection.

Results

The two case studies illustrate how Advadraw Spiral® proved beneficial on many different wound types and the evaluators found that all the patients' wounds did well. However, the most noticeable benefit came from its use in thin tracking sinuses, where it was found to be much more comfortable, pliable and easier to remove than its competitor. Another benefit that was noted was it did not need to be cut, so the risk of contamination from 'dirty' scissors is very much reduced.

Conclusion

We have felt that Advadraw Spiral® is a very useful dressing to have in any formulary, we felt it controlled exudate well on all of the cases we evaluated, it helped in resolving infection, and though it was found to be painful for some patients, both the Tissue Viability Team and the patients felt that the benefits were good and probably outweigh the minimal pain felt. It might also be beneficial to produce it in the future in a variety of shapes and sizes to try and accommodate most wounds i.e. longer and shorter lengths and also different widths.