

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLEAN AND CLOSE CONCEPT FOR TREATMENT OF SURGICAL AND CHRONIC WOUNDS IN THREE UNIVERSITY CENTRES IN BERLIN – GERMANY

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Aim: To evaluate and implement the Clean and Close concept for treatment of surgical wounds in daily clinical practice using three innovative wound dressings.

Methods: 60 patients (20 at each University Centre) with chronic leg ulcers, pressure sores, abdominal wounds, skin defects after cancer resection, and diabetic foot ulcers were included in this evaluation. None of the wounds required systemic antibiotics or were associated with lymphangitis or fever. Patients were allocated to receive either a silver-releasing hydroalginate or a Collagen / Oxidized Regenerated Cellulose (ORC)+ silver dressing as primary and an absorbent foam dressing as secondary dressing depending on the initial bacterial status of wounds. Wounds were treated for six weeks and evaluated weekly for rate of healing and wound size reduction per week. Planimetric measurements were used to determine wound size. The Wollina et al. (2005) score was used to determine the quality of granulation tissue. Time for dressing change, interval between bandages and in general dressing performance criteria were also assessed.

Results: After six weeks complete healing was determined for 80% of wounds and for all wounds treated an average wound size reduction of 14% was achieved. Results of the Wollina score showed an improvement of quality of granulation tissue after 4 weeks therapy with all wounds showing an average of >6 points at this time point. Dressings were easy to handle for both nurses and patient. None of the patients treated –even those showing high levels of bioburden at the beginning of therapy- had to be treated with systemic antibiotics.

Conclusion: The Clean and Close concept for wound therapy of surgical and chronic wounds may have a clinically favourable influence on wound prognosis and is associated with a high rate of complete healing. However, much time is spend in dressing changes with intervals of dressing changes being short.