

**RESULTS OF RCT ON THE ANTIMICROBIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF A NEW SILVER ALGINATE WOUND DRESSING**

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**Aim:** The aim of the study was to compare the efficacy and impact on locally infected wounds of a new silver alginate matrix\* to that of a standard alginate dressing.

**Methods:** 42 patients (20F – 22M), median age = 68,6 (33 - 93) with clinically infected pressure ulcers (24), venous leg ulcers (4), mixed leg ulcers (2), diabetic foot ulcers (6) and acute wounds (6) were studied; all patients presented local signs of wound infection. Severity of wound infection was graded with an infection score (calculated by the presence and/or intensity of clinical signs/symptoms, min. = 0, max. = 18) and quantitative bacterial analysis of wound tissue biopsies (taken during initial visit and after 2 weeks of local treatment). Patients were randomized into either Group A: to be treated with ionic silver alginate dressings on a daily basis or Group B: to be treated with standard calcium alginate dressings on a daily basis. The study period was 2 weeks with the main study endpoint being the regression of infection (score of infection + quantitative biopsy results). As a complement, the virulence of the isolated *Staphylococcus aureus*, the main strains isolated in our study was estimated in vitro through multiplex PCR based genetic analysis.

**Results:** At the end of the study, regression of infection was found based on (i) a diminution in the score of infection and (ii) biopsy results demonstrating a substantial reduction in bacterial load. Data on the virulence of analyzed strains suggest that there are *S. aureus* strains which are infectious and others which are merely colonizing. The correlations between infection score, quantitative bacteria counts and presence of infectious or colonizing *Staphylococcus aureus* strains in treatment groups is under way.

**Conclusions:** These findings support the tolerability and antimicrobial efficacy of this new dressing in locally infected wounds.

\*Askina® Calgitrol® Ag, B. Braun