

**EFFICACY OF A POLYHEXANIDE/BETAINE WOUND GEL\*  
IN THE TREATMENT OF HARD TO HEAL WOUNDS**

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**Aim:** The aim of the study was to evaluate the cleansing efficacy of a wound gel – containing 0.1% polyhexanide and 0.1% betaine – in the treatment of hard to heal wounds compared to the standard treatment regimen of GNEAUPP (Grupo Nacional para el Estudio y Asesoramiento en Úlceras por Presión y Heridas Crónicas) using saline for wound cleansing

**Methods:** A multi-centre, randomized, comparative clinical trial including a total of 142 patients (September – December 2006) with a treatment period of 2 weeks. Experimental group using the polyhexanide/betaine wound gel in addition to standard therapy, Control group treated with standard therapy (saline, AMD, compression).

Primary objective was to compare the rate of bacterial load reduction in both groups using swab technique; Secondary objectives included reduction in wound size and inflammatory signs as well as wound debridement and control of wound pain and odour.

**Results:** Experimental group showed a significant reduction of the bacterial burden ( $p=0.004$ ). Wound size after treatment was smaller in experimental group ( $p=0.013$ ). More effective removal of avital tissue and clearer promotion of granulation tissue ( $p=0.001$ ) could be achieved with the polyhexanide/betaine wound gel. Better control of odour ( $p=0.029$ ) and pain ( $p=0.049$ ) and clear reduction of inflammatory signs ( $p=0.004$ ) have been observed in experimental group.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study reflect the ability of the polyhexanide/betaine containing wound gel to significantly reduce the bacterial burden and contribute to rapid minimisation of wound size and effective wound debridement. The wound gel helps also to increase patients comfort by alleviating pain and reducing wound odour.

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