

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF 2 INDOLENT GRADE 4 PRESSURE ULCERS OF 5 YEARS DURATION USING PRONTOSAN® IRRIGATION SOLUTION AND GEL

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Abstract

Prontosan® Irrigation Solution and Gel (B. Braun) has improved the quality of one patient's life by reducing the size and depth of his grade 4 pressure ulcers.

Previously both ulcers contained biofilm, necrotic tissue, were constantly malodorous, bleeding and often became infected necessitating antibiotic therapy.

Results after 4 weeks of Prontosan® indicated significant reductions in size and depth; malodour and infection were eliminated and the number of dressing changes were reduced.

Introduction

The patient is a 65 year old man, discharged from the local District General Hospital 5 years ago with a large grade 4 pressure ulcer to his right acetabulum, extending into his right buttock (Ulcer 1) and a smaller deep grade 4 pressure ulcer to his left acetabulum (Ulcer 2).



Ulcer 1 - 17/2/06



Ulcer 2 - 17/2/06

Past Medical History

- Tetraplegia for 18 years following a road traffic accident
- Non insulin dependent diabetes (NIDD)
- Chronic anaemia

Wound Assessment

Both wounds failed to heal or show any sign of improvement despite assessing the factors that could influence the healing process.

Both wounds:

- Contained biofilm
- Contained necrotic tissue
- Were constantly malodorous
- Showed signs of bleeding
- Often became infected necessitating antibiotic therapy



Ulcer 2 - 17/3/06

Previous Treatments

Various treatments had been attempted over 5 years including:

- Plastic surgery
- Vacuum assisted closure
- Numerous wound care products, in particular silver dressings, which were used over a period of several months 1 month prior to commencing Prontosan®

Method

- Normal saline was discontinued and Prontosan® irrigation and 10 minute soaks commenced
- All silver dressings stopped
- Prontosan® Gel was applied to both wounds as primary wound contact
- No other change was made to any pressure relieving support system or treatment

Results

- The large ulcer (Ulcer 1) initially required daily dressings for the first 4 weeks. When a significant reduction in the size and depth was noted, dressings were reduced to alternate days
- One occasion of critical colonisation by pseudomonas aeruginosa was noted. This responded well to Aquacel Ag on top of Prontosan® Gel after irrigation with Prontosan® Wound Irrigation, for 2 weeks
- Apart from this episode all silver dressings were discontinued
- The wound was no longer malodorous and exudate levels were considerably reduced
- All bleeding from the wound, which previously occurred regularly, stopped
- Since commencing Prontosan® Irrigation, Soaks and Gel, the patient no longer needed any antibiotics

Immediately after commencing Prontosan® the small ulcer (Ulcer 2):

- Produced less exudate
- Dressing changes with an alginate rope were reduced to alternate days



Ulcer 1 - 12/4/06

Quality of Life

Historically, daily visits from the district nursing staff commenced in January 2001 and took one hour per day. Both the patient and his family found the visits a necessity but they felt that their lives revolved around treating the ulcers.

Since commencing Prontosan®, visits from the district nurse were reduced to alternate days and the patient and his wife attended their son's wedding, with no detrimental effect to either ulcer. This was the first time the patient had left his house to attend a social occasion for over 5 years.

Summary

Prontosan® has proven for this patient to be an effective wound irrigation and gel. It has made significant improvements to both wounds which the patient, his wife and district nursing service did not expect to see. This has improved the patient's morale and the results have motivated all nursing staff.



Ulcer 1 - 14/6/06



Ulcer 2 - 14/6/06