CASE STUDY

Three Malleolus Wounds of Two Years’ Duration Closed in Four Weeks Using PolyMem Silver®

INITIAL WOUND PRESENTATION

CLOSED AFTER FOUR WEEKS
**CASE STUDY**

Three Malleolus Wounds of Two Years’ Duration Closed in Four Weeks Using PolyMem Silver

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**PROBLEM**

A 65-year-old female with a history of venous insufficiency presented with wounds of the left lateral and medial malleolus. The patient’s history included chronic arthritis, hypertension, hypothyroidism, immobility and left malleolus wounds present for the last 2 years. The patient was hospitalized with a gastrointestinal bleed and severe anemia. A past wound culture showed MRSA in the wounds. Additionally, the patient had possible pseudomonas colonization. A Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse was consulted for wound care. The patient lives in a desert environment which can interfere with optimum moist wound healing conditions.

**DESCRIPTION OF PAST MANAGEMENT**

Past wound treatment included conservative debridement, daily wet-to-dry dressings or weekly compression therapy after debridement. All previous treatments were found unsuccessful. The patient had pain with dressing changes.

**CURRENT CLINICAL APPROACH**

The new plan of treatment included applying high lanolin content skin protectant to the leg, debride as needed, cover with PolyMem Silver dressing and apply 4-layer bandage system compression therapy. The dressing and compression therapy were changed once per week. The PolyMem Silver dressing selection was based on the wound culture results and the fact that the dressings can be used up to 7 days. PolyMem Silver dressings have been tested and found to be effective against: Staphylococcus Aureus both MRSA and Non-MRSA, Enterococcus Faecalis (VRE), Klebsiella Pneumoniae, Pseudomonas Aeruginosa and Candida Albicans.

**PATIENT OUTCOME**

These chronic non-healing wounds healed in 4 weeks after initiation of management with PolyMem Silver dressings. Only 5 dressing changes were required in order to achieve wound closure. The patient did not experience any maceration of the wound or periwound area with this management approach.

The wound bed did not need to be cleansed during dressing changes after the PolyMem Silver dressings were initiated. The clinician attributes this to the continuous cleansing that the PolyMem Silver dressing provides during use.

The wound debrided and cleaned up faster and closed sooner than the clinician expected.

The PolyMem Silver dressing is non-adherent which made dressing changes very comfortable for the patient. The patient did not have pain with dressing changes when using the PolyMem Silver dressing.
OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss problematic issues related to malleolus wounds.
2. Identify PolyMem Silver dressings to help reduce bacterial burden and enhance wound healing throughout the wound healing continuum.
3. Discuss using PolyMem Silver dressings with compression therapy for treatment of venous insufficiency.
4. Identify PolyMem Silver dressings to be a cost-effective choice for wound management.

CONCLUSION

PolyMem Silver dressings are an excellent choice to use under compression. PolyMem Silver dressings maintained an ideal moist wound healing environment even in these desert conditions. PolyMem Silver dressings offer quicker wound resolution times than traditional dressings and have been found to help heal wounds that had previously been unsuccessfully treated. PolyMem Silver dressings deliver 4 aspects of wound care in 1 formulation (cleanses, fills, absorbs, moistens) which can be used throughout the wound-healing continuum. The dressing eliminates multiple wound products and has been found to be cost-effective. This type of dressing can be used successfully with or without compression therapy.

MAY 20

Left lateral malleolus wound 6 cm x 4.5 cm depth 0.5 cm, granulation tissue present.

Left medial malleolus wound 4.5 cm x 4 cm depth 0.4 cm.

Left medial posterior malleolus wound 2 cm x 2 cm depth 0.5 cm, 100% yellow slough tissue.

Erythema present to surrounding skin. PolyMem Silver dressings initiated with compression therapy.

JUNE 2

Left lateral malleolus wound 5 cm x 3 cm, resurfacing present, no odor noted. Scant amount sanguinous drainage and periwound softening callous.

Left medial malleolus wound 3.5 cm x 2.5 cm.

Left medial posterior malleolus wound 2 cm x 1.5 cm, resurfacing noted. 100% wound granulation.

JUNE 17

Left lateral and medial malleolus resurfaced.

Wounds closed.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Original Poster Presented at*:

19th Annual Symposium on Advances in Skin & Wound Care (SAWC). Poster #82. April 30 – May 3, 2006. San Antonio, TX USA


21st Annual Clinical Symposium on Advances in Skin & Wound Care. Poster #69. September 28 - October 1, 2006. Orlando, FL USA


* This version has been modified from the original; it reflects PolyMem branding.

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