

PALLIATIVE CARE WITH A POLIHEXANIDE CONTAINING BIO-CELLULOSE DRESSING IN SIX PATIENTS WITH ULCERATING TUMORS

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Aim :

Foul odor, copious exudate and pain reduce quality of life in patients with ulcerating tumors on top of suffering from terminal illness. The study used case ascertainment evaluating a tailor made dressing regime that aimed at improving patient quality of life, reducing odor, pain and the frequency of dressing changes.

Patients:

The six patients included had ulcerating tumors such as melanoma's and sarcomas. The patients were all in the terminal stage of their disease and received palliative care at the hospice. The current treatment regime was, rinsing with metronidazole after which an absorbent pad was applied. Dressing changes took place up to 3 times a day, due to frequent leakage and foul odor. The new dressing regime consisted of a *bio-cellulose dressing combined with polihexanide (BWD + PHMB) covered with an absorbent **silver dressing.

Results :

In all six patients, dressing changes took place on average 3 times weekly and the foul odor had reduced significantly within 24 hours after starting the new dressing regime. The patients reported the dressing to have a comfortable cooling effect, reducing their ulcer pain.

Conclusion:

The included patients reported to experience less social isolation due to a reduction of odor and less frequent dressing changes, improving the quality of the terminal stage of their life.

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Case 1:



Fig. 1 and Fig 2: 80-years old male with an ulcerating melanoma on the scalp. Status after RT chemo



Fig. 3: The bio-cellulose dressing is in place



Fig. 4: The secondary dressing is applied and the odour has reduced.

Case 2:



Fig 5 and Fig 6: 68-years old male with bone metastasis of a primary melanoma. Foul smell and bleeding. The bio-cellulose dressing is used as a filler, covered with the secondary dressing.

Case 5:



Fig 13: Patient with a PU and a sarcoma. Foul odor is managed with the biocellulose dressing + PHMB, employed as a wound filler and covered with an absorbent silver containing dressing.

Case 3:



Fig 7: Ulcerating breast tumor



Fig 8: Bleeding .



Fig 9: Dressing in place

Case 6:



Fig 14: Ulcerating breast tumour



Fig 15: The dressing is comfortable and soothing

Case 4:



Fig 10: 69-years old female with a melanoma, status after radio and chemo therapy



Fig 11: Bio-cellulose dressing in place



Fig 12: Secondary dressing