Exudate management, HydroBalance, pain reduction - special aspects in the treatment of chronic wounds in Germany -

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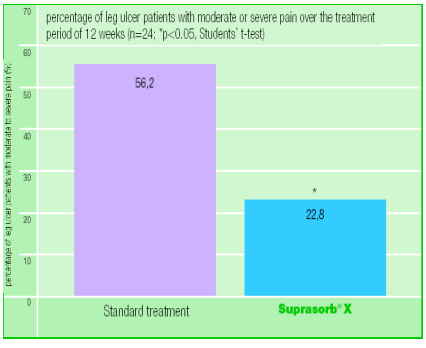
Introduction:

The treatment of chronic wounds presents a challenge to the therapist on a daily basis. Given the growing market of different materials and products, the situation is getting ever more complex for prescribers and users alike. A novel approach involves products with a broad range of applications in different phases of wound healing and degrees of exudation; aspects of particular importance are the capacity for absorption of exudates and simultaneous release of moisture ("HydroBalance") in accordance with the individual requirements of the wound (Fig 1), and subjective pain reduction (Fig. 3). Other wound dressings do not possess this effect or only in a fewer extent (Fig. 2).

Material and methods:

The present post marketing surveillance study involves patients with chronic wounds (up to moderate exudation). In addition to treating the underlying disease, therapy also involves a local moist wound management, consisting of HydroBalance wound dressing* plus a secondary dressing adapted to the individual degree of exudation (film dressing for light to moderate exudation / foam dressing or absorbent dressing for medium-degree exudation). Capacity for absorption of exudates and simultaneous release of moisture ("HydroBalance") in accordance with the individual requirements of the wound, and subjective pain reduction are the main advantages of this biocellulose based wound dressing. We report the initial insights gained from German experience regarding the usefulness and potentials.



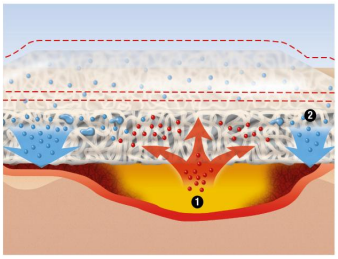
Standard treatment:
Non-adhesive knitted fabric of viscose fibres impregnated with a Vaseline emulsion, plus a 2-layer compression therapy [1].

Fig. 3: Subjective pain reduction of patients with venous leg ulcers (according to Alvarez O et al 2004, [1])

HydroBalance wound dressing* = Suprasorb® X

Fig. 1

Depending on individual requirements, moisture is either absorbed (1) or released (2)



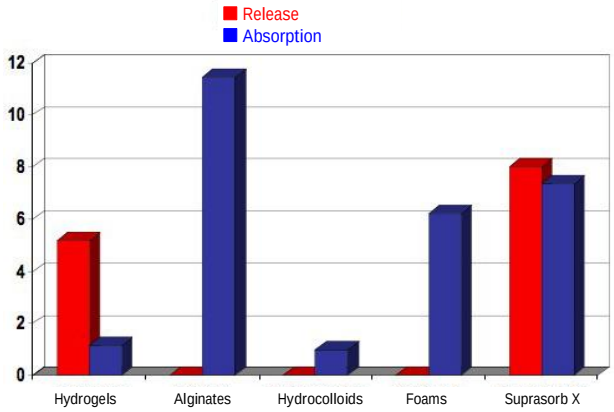


Fig 2: Various dressings and their capacity for absorbing or releasing moisture

Results and discussion

To date, the following effects have been documented:
- **swift and efficient cleansing of the wound base**
- **distinct enhancement of granulation**
- **swift immigration of epithelial cells**
- **significant reduction in wound size within 4 weeks**
- **efficient exudate management for mild/moderate to medium exudation**

Other than the effects mentioned above, the most notable features of Suprasorb® X observed in this context were its easy handling as perceived by the user and the distinct subjective pain reduction perceived by the patient.

A product with a broad range of applications means a distinctly higher degree of convenience for the prescriber and the user. The combination of "high wearing comfort and pain reduction" distinctly improves the patient's quality of life and satisfaction with treatment.

References:

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2. Coerper S, Beckert S, Halm-Nill C, Deutschle G, Königsrainer A. Prospective Evaluation of Suprasorb® X in chronic wounds. Jahreskongress der European Wound Management Association (EWMA) 2006, Prague/CZ, 18.-20.05.06
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