

# A SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COPIOUS EXUDING WOUNDS IN A COHORT STUDY

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## INTRODUCTION

Excessive production of wound exudate may be the source of local complications, significant discomfort and may impair patients' quality of life<sup>1</sup>. Effective management of exudate should shorten wound healing time, optimize resources and reduce the impact on the physical and psychosocial health status of the patient<sup>1-3</sup>.

## OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this observational study was to evaluate the relevance and efficacy of a superabsorbent\* dressing in the management of acute and chronic copiously exuding wounds.

## METHOD

- ✓ Multi-centre prospective, non comparative study, conducted in 2010 at six Ambulant Patient and Hospital (APHP) centers in Paris
- ✓ Study period of 8 weeks.
- ✓ Ambulant and hospital patients with highly exuding wounds
- ✓ Follow up: 7 days with visits at day 0, day 3 and at day 7.
- ✓ Observational data on wounds and related symptoms obtained from patients and clinicians.
- ✓ Treatment with a \*superabsorbent dressing.

## RESULTS

### STUDY POPULATION

- ✓ 15 patients : 6 M/ 9F
- ✓ Mean age : 69,7 years
- ✓ 8 hospital / 7 ambulant patients

### WOUND TYPES

- ✓ 7 acute wounds / 8 chronic wounds
- ✓ Type :

Pressure ulcers	2
Venous ulcers	1
Mixed ulcers	1
Diabetic foot	1
Ulcerating tumours	3
Acute surgical	6
Other	1

- ✓ Location :

Thorax	2
Arms	1
Abdomen	3
Perineal	2
Leg	5
Foot	2

- ✓ Cavity wounds 60 %

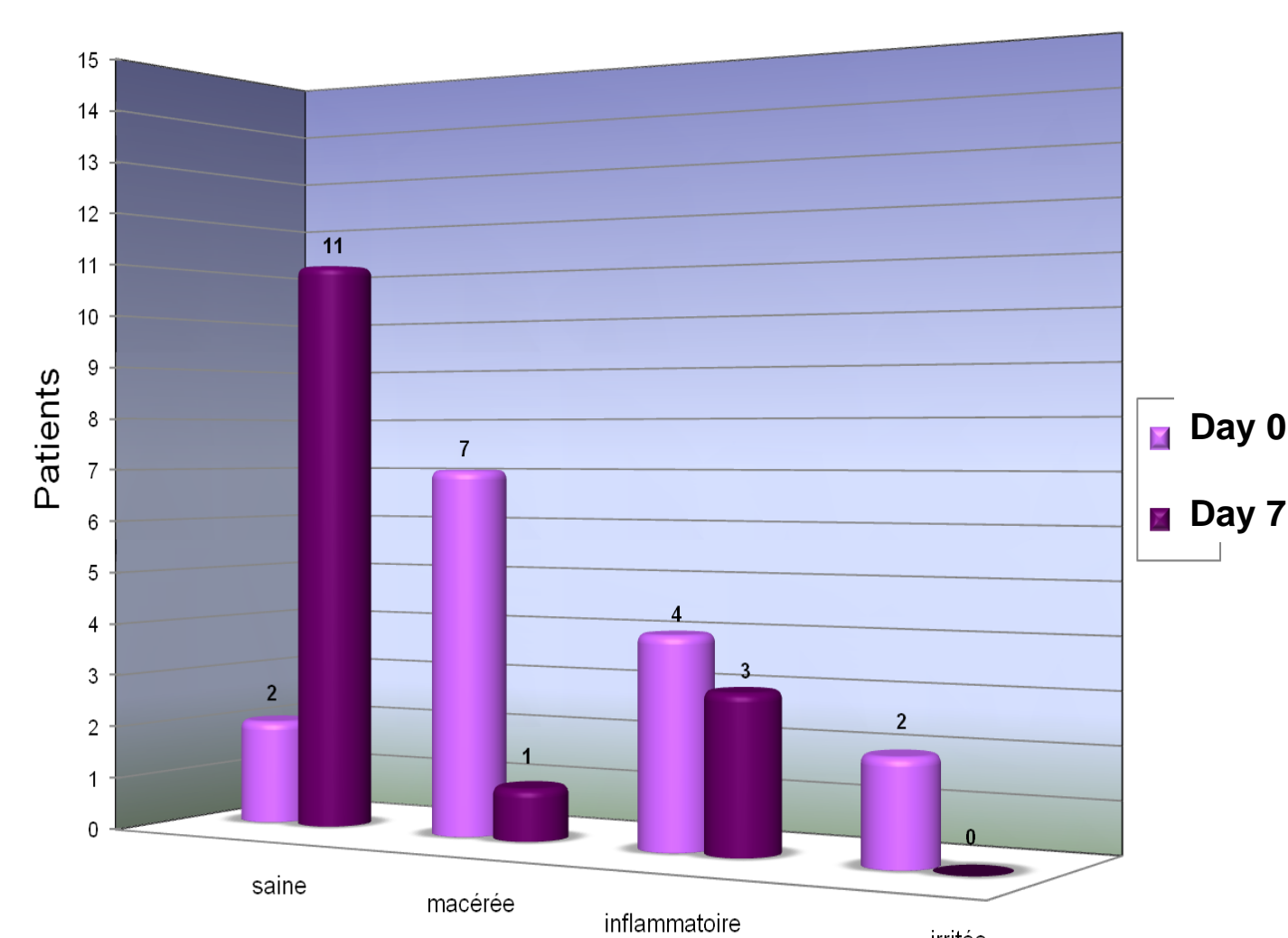
- ✓ Peri-lesional skin maceration 47 %

- ✓ Exudate: moderate to high 100 %

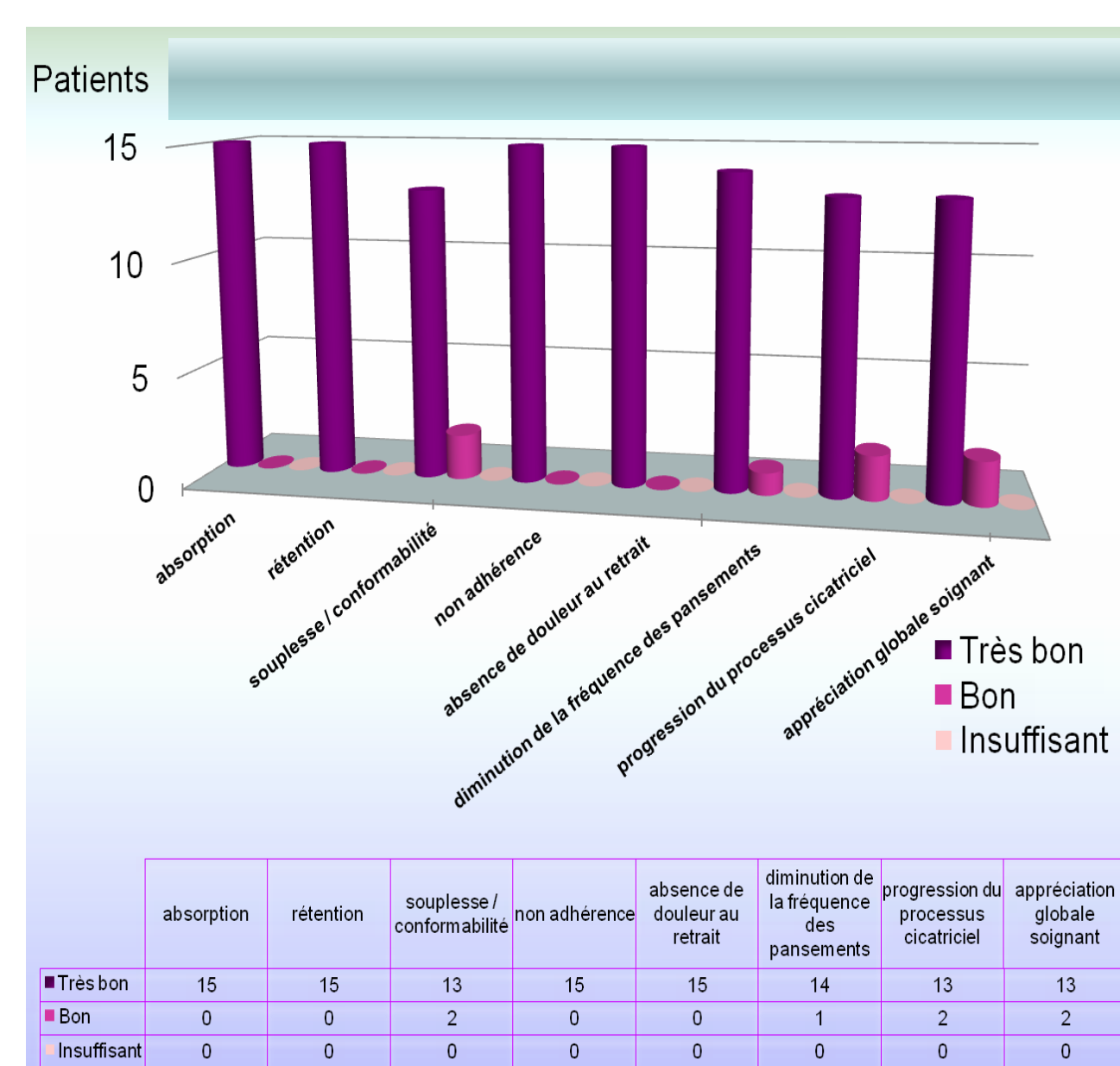
- ✓ Pain upon dressing changes moderate to excruciating 74 %

- ✓ Previous treatment : alginate + absorbent pad > 40 %

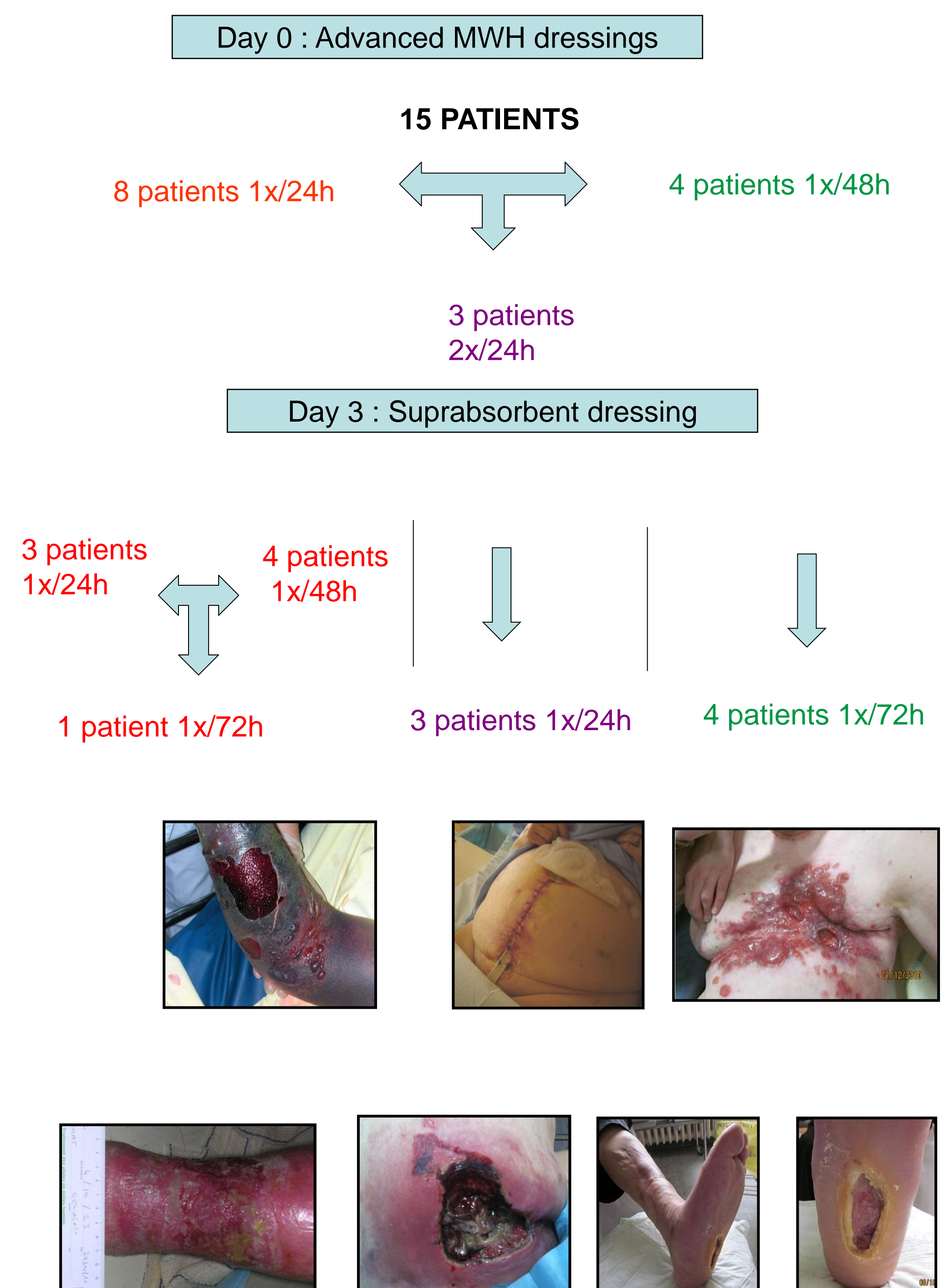
### PERI-LESIONAL SKIN DAY 0/DAY 7



### EVALUATION OF THE CLINICIANS



### FREQUENCY OF DRESSING CHANGES



## DISCUSSION

- ✓ Clinical efficacy : No exudate related complications (maceration)
- ✓ Improved comfort and quality of life in 100 % of the cases
- ✓ Excellent tolerance = no adverse events
- ✓ Small study group

## CONCLUSION

In view of these results, \*superabsorbent dressings seem to be particularly interesting for the application in exuding wounds, to :

- Reduce complications
- Enhance patient comfort
- Reduce clinician's time required for wound treatment

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\* Vliwasorb®, Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH, Rengsdorf, Germany

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