

Implementing a Mechanical Debridement Protocol Process Improvement Plan

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Background

"Regular debridement is the cornerstone for maintaining a healthy wound bed in most chronic wounds with a potential to heal."¹ Within Intermountain Healthcare, a large care delivery system, we are always looking for ways to improve patient outcomes, shorten wound healing times, and help patients decrease pain and improve healing. Given the many methods of debridement available, we decided to utilize the monofilament debriding pads prior to seeing the wound clinic physician. A survey was done to determine if the use of these mechanical debriding pads was effective. Nurses and technicians both felt they were not beneficial. On further evaluation, we found that the pads were not being used correctly, according to manufactures guidelines.

Methods

A Debridement Protocol using a monofilament pad in the wound clinic was developed and implemented in an attempt to standardize care across our agencies and improve wound healing. To continue the wound bed maintenance, homecare also uses the monofilament debriding pad as part of the treatment plan. A simple educational flyer and video were created to train the staff in the use of the monofilament pads. Timers were purchased and placed in every treatment room to ensure the pads were used for sufficient time to maximize benefit. A standardized 4-minute scrub was expected when using the pad or lolly (Figure 1,2).



Figure 1. Intermountain Debridement Protocol Using Debrisoft® Monofilament Pad.

1. Remove the dressing.
2. Open the Debrisoft single use, sterile pack.
3. Fully moisten the soft fleecy side of Debrisoft with tap water, wound cleanser, or saline.
4. With light pressure and using a circular motion, use the soft fleecy side of Debrisoft to gently debride the wound and/or skin for approximately 4 minutes.
5. Re-moisten of Debrisoft begins to stick during debridement.



Figure 2. Intermountain Debridement Protocol Using Debrisoft® Lolly.

1. Remove the dressing.
2. Open the Debrisoft Lolly single use, sterile pack.
3. Fully moisten the Debrisoft Lolly with tap water, wound cleanser, or saline.
4. Clean the wound and/or hard-to-reach areas by applying gentle pressure with the soft, fibre head of the moistened Debrisoft Lolly for 4 minutes.



Results

Physicians found that with the implementation of the protocol, their debridement time was decreased. They also found that structures in the wound bed were more clearly defined and sharp debridement was easier to complete. The physicians felt that the lolly was able to debride places that they could not easily see to sharp debride.

Conclusion

Implementation of the Debridement Protocol has standardized the use of the product. We have seen an overall decrease in treatment time and decreased physician debridement time. ■

References

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