

TREATMENT OF POSTOPERATIVE WOUND INFECTION IN COMBINATION WITH EDEMA WITH AN ENZYME ALGINOGEL®

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INTRODUCTION

A wound in the lower limb in combination with (venous) edema heals slowly and with difficulty. Adequate treatment and optimal follow-up are paramount.

Purpose of the study was to examine the activity of an enzyme alginogel® in the treatment of a post-operative wound infection after a full thickness graft at the lower leg.

TREATMENT

A 75 year old woman presented herself with a wound resulting from a post-operative wound infection after excision of a squamous cell carcinoma and placing of a full thickness graft. Anamnesis revealed: TE, curettage, varices, gastritis, and hypertension.

Ulcers were observed in the right lower limb using the T.I.M.E concept. Tissue color, bacterial load, wound exudate, wound borders and VAS scale were monitored. Two superficial exudative wounds with yellow aspect were observed. Patient classified the pain as 7.

The wounds were rinsed abundantly using a shower. Then the enzyme alginogel® was applied to the wound bed, using a vaseline gauze as a carrier.

It was covered with a non-sterile absorbent compress and fixed by a 15cm broad fixation plaster.

Short stretch bandages were applied.

The entire dressing was changed twice a week.

RESULTS

Pain rapidly diminished, and after 3 weeks the wound at the foot was healed. The wound at the lower limb was 50% covered with epithelium, and 50% with yellow slough.

A month later, the wound at the lower limb had also healed completely and the treatment was stopped.



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T : Yellow fibrine

I : Local infection

M : Moderate exsudate

E : Black, yellow necrotic wound borders, oedema



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T : Wound is healed

I : No infection

M : Wound is healed

E : Oedema is under controle

CONCLUSION

The clinical outcome illustrates the effectiveness of an enzyme alginogel® in the treatment of post-operative wound infection in combination with oedema.