

'Look See' for Eclypse® Foot

Eastbourne Wound Healing Centre

Eastbourne Wound Healing Centre undertook a 'look see' of Eclypse® Foot dressing to establish whether the design was acceptable and the dressing capable of handling the large amount of fluid that can be lost from any foot wound. The centre undertook a 'Look see' evaluation of the product on 5 patients.

Super absorbent dressings have a greater fluid-handling capacity than traditional dressings and require changing less frequently (Tadej, 2009) and there are many of these particular types entering the market at the moment. Therefore, any new product must have an 'edge' and the Eclypse® Foot may offer that edge with the design.



Fig. 1

All wounds will exude fluid. In acute wounds this exudate is essential for healing while in chronic wounds it becomes detrimental to the healing process and can have an adverse effect, increasing the size of the wound or macerating the tissues (fig:1), causing distress to the patient, reducing their mobility, increasing the potential for odour and opening the foot to clinical infection.

Fluid loss is greater when the limb is dependent and because the foot is the nearest to the floor, when there are wounds, the fluid loss here will be very high.

The most appropriate method for reducing exudate is to apply compression bandages. However, while the fluid level adjusts there will need to be a method for absorbing the excess fluid. Also, there are many instances when patients either cannot tolerate compression or refuses compression and these particular patients would need to have appropriate dressings for absorbency.

Eclypse® composes of a rapidly wicking polyester and viscose spun woven face combined with a high capacity sheet of absorbent crystals and mechanically bonded cellulose pad. The backing is a polyester fluid repellent. Eclypse® is a highly absorbent, high capacity wound exudate management product which is designed to absorb fluid, reduce potential leaks and reduce risk of maceration.

Assignment Brief: To undertake a 'Look See' evaluation of the Eclypse® Foot and to report on the findings.

Method: The Wound Healing Centre will identify patients with heavily exuding foot wounds. The Eclypse® Foot will be applied and photos taken.

Objective: To assist with the design of the dressing and to evaluate the potential for further study.



The 1st design, the wings were too long and made placing the dressing difficult.



The wings were shortened.



Dressings used prior to Eclypse® Foot. Note the exudate loss over the toes.

Same leg after same length of wear time with Eclypse® Foot.



A foot with a toe that is naturally dissecting. Always wet and constantly in large gamgee pads.



Same foot in Eclypse® Foot and Eclypse® dressing from the heel upward.



This is a leg bound up with several Xupads. Note the fluid coming through at the toes.



Eclypse® Foot opened following 3 days wear.

Continued...



Highly exuding foot wounds. Leg and foot is macerated.



Ordinary Eclipse® dressing in situ. Has been cut to fit the foot. Cutting is not good practice with super absorbent dressings.



Eclipse® always absorbs well and keeps the tissues dry.



Eclipse® after 3 days wear (patient was previously having daily dressing changes).



Eclipse® Foot in situ with short wings.



The Eclipse® Foot can be left without bandage. However, a bandage does ensure that it remains in situ and is shaped like a boot.

Without bandage, it is like a shoe but may be slippery on the floor although this has never been raised as an issue. When there is a leg wound as well, the fluid will be absorbed into another plain Eclipse®. However, this is difficult when the wound is low down as (due to the shape of both dressings) the heel is exposed and the fluid sits on the heel causing damage. The longer back wing will assist with this. Putting on shoes can be difficult with dressing and bandages.

Conclusion

The Eclipse® Foot is extremely well received by the Eastbourne Wound Healing Specialists who would not wish to be without it for all of the foot wounds.

Not one patient had problems with leakage during the evaluation.

Each patient found it comfortable to wear and was comforted by the thought that they could go to bed without leakage on the sheets.

If this product is marketed well, it will have a strong place in wound healing, particularly in the diabetic foot if marketed as the primary dressing as it will keep the wound dry and free of infection.