

Local treatment of pressure ulcers in a specialist centre for multiple sclerosis patients: experience with the NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing*

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INTRODUCTION

Our specialist centre for the care of multiple sclerosis patients includes 2 units: a 50-bed long-stay unit and a 10-bed short-stay unit. We follow up around a hundred patients per year, presenting an average score of greater than or equal to 7.5 (out of 10) on the EDSS scale (Expanded Disability Status Scale). The average age is 42 years. Deep sensory disturbances make these patients particularly vulnerable to the development of pressure ulcers. 10% of our patients have pressure ulcers. Stage III or IV pressure ulcers are usually sacral or ischial, but also affect the heel and ankle bone regions.

PATIENTS AND WOUNDS

These pressure ulcers are difficult to heal despite appropriate general and local treatment: 1/3 of patients are on a high-protein diet and use an anti-pressure ulcer mattress and the wounds are debrided (fibrin less than 20%). Despite this, the wounds are slow to heal, with atonic granulation tissue. The average length of time that the ulcers had been present was 11.7 months before the start of the **new NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing*** treatment. The average surface area was 7.4 cm² (2.8-16.5), the depth was 1.7 cm (0.2-3).

RESULTS

The average treatment duration was 45 days. In 2/3 of cases, it was stopped following complete healing and in 1/3 of cases when the reduction in surface area was greater than 80%. Local treatment with the **new NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing*** combined with appropriate overall management allowed these seriously handicapped neurological patients to heal in an average of 3 months.

CLINICAL CASE STUDY 1

53 year-old male patient, with a pressure ulcer of the right ischium, sacrum and scrotum present for 18 months. Local treatment with the **NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing*** was started on 24/09/07. The pressure ulcer had a surface area of 165 cm² (11x15 cm) and a depth of 1 cm. Treatment was continued for 8 weeks (until 22/11/07), with the wound only measuring 1.5 cm² (3 x 0.5 cm).



CLINICAL CASE STUDY 2

61 year-old female patient, with a right external malleolar pressure ulcer present for 12 months. At D0 (21/09/07) of treatment with the **NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing***, the wound had a surface area of 2.9 cm² (1.8 x 1.6 cm). At D+38 (29/10/07), the **NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing*** was stopped, since healing was complete.



CONCLUSION

Local treatment with the **new NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing*** combined with appropriate overall management allowed these seriously handicapped neurological patients to heal in an average of 3 months, whereas their pressure ulcers had been present for an average of 1 year.

* Brand name: The NOSF absorbent lipido-colloid dressing* is UrgoCell® START (Cellostart) from Laboratoires URGO.