The use of ALLEVYN° Non-adhesive and INTRASITE° Gel in the treatment of a ten month old baby with necrotic perineal and abdominal wounds

Introduction
Baby C 6 months old, developed a generalised rash. Initial treatment with emollients was not successful. A referral was made to Dermatology where they undertook a full blood screening and carried out skin biopsies. Baby C was diagnosed with Langerhans’ Cell Histiocytosis X

Histiocytosis X
Histiocyte: Type of cell involved
Osis: meaning increased numbers
X: denotes that cause is unknown
Histiocytosis X can be single or a multi-system. It affects children of any age. The "cells" either migrate to a different site in abnormal numbers or migrate outside their normal tissue compartment. Histiocytosis X is a serious condition although not always life threatening. There is a deficiency of a certain type of white blood cell.

The challenge
Baby C deteriorated rapidly and was transferred to Paediatric ITU and ventilated. His abdominal and perineal skin ulcerated and became necrotic (see figure 1). The challenge was to manage hard necrotic eschar and contamination by urine. It was difficult to hold dressings in place.

Nursing aims
Nursing aims were to remove eschar, prevent wounds becoming infected, keep the dressing in contact with the wound and to use dressings that would not further damage Baby C’s fragile skin.

The solution
INTRASITE Gel was applied to facilitate autolytic debridement of necrotic tissue. ALLEVYN Non-adhesive was used to absorb the excessive exudate and maintain the integrity of the skin surrounding the wound. Dressings were changed twice a day to facilitate rapid debridement. Baby C’s nappy was used to keep dressing in place.

The result
Necrotic eschar were removed within 10 days. (see figure 2). The wounds began to re-epithelialise and contamination by urine and faeces was minimised. (see figure 3). There were no signs of infection. The use of nappy to hold dressings in place was successful.

The wounds continued to heal. INTRASITE Gel was discontinued and ALLEVYN was continued to absorb any exudate. Baby C’s condition improved and he was moved to Oncology for further treatment.