Using a hydrocellular foam dressing with silicone adhesive* as part of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention plan: Results from five US hospital ICUs

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Purpose
Identify interventions to enhance existing pressure reduction efforts.

Objective
To evaluate a silicone adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing as part of pressure ulcer prevention plan.

Pressure ulcer-related hospital admissions among adults in the US increased nearly 80% between 1993 and 2006, while the total number of hospitalizations increased by only 15%. This increase in what is considered a preventable event led the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in 2007, and many state and private insurers, to no longer pay for additional costs associated with hospital-acquired stage III and IV pressure ulcers.

In an effort to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers among high-risk patients, many clinicians are investigating interventions to enhance existing prevention plans. A specific hydrocellular foam dressing has been identified in eleven studies, to reduce pressure. One 8-week, multi-center study, comparing another bandage technique with the foam dressing, demonstrated a 44% incidence in heel pressure ulcers with the other bandage and 3.3% incidence among those using the hydrocellular foam.

Based upon this collection of evidence, nurses from four regional medical center and/or trauma center ICUs, representing the west coast, northeast, central and southern United States, evaluated a shaped silicone adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing as part of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention plan. The ICUs continued their routine pressure ulcer prevention and applied the silicone adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing to the sacro/coccyx area of their patients, based upon their own risk criteria. No other new interventions were initiated during this evaluation.

Silicone adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing evaluations for pressure reduction – data from 4 sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital location</th>
<th>Number of patients evaluated</th>
<th>Average length of stay (days)</th>
<th>Average dressing wear time (days)</th>
<th>Skin condition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3.4</td>
<td>Intact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Intact</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Intact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Intact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results
Results from 120 patients, demonstrated an average length of stay of 6.7 days, with an average dressing wear time of 5 days. No patients experienced skin breakdown.

Conclusion
This initial evaluation suggests that the use of the silicone adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing can play a significant role as part of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention plan.

References

*ALLEVYN™ Gentle Border Heel, ALLEVYN Gentle Border Sacrum – Smith & Nephew Wound Management Inc., St Petersburg, FL

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