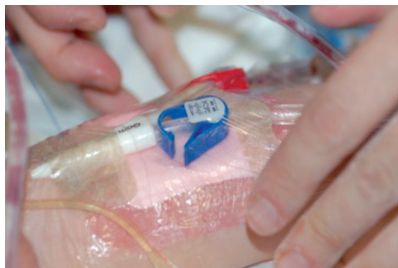


Socorro García Erviti, Paquita Martínez, Esther Tierraseca, Francisca Pizarroso, Nurses Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Paediatric ICU (Madrid) Leticia Muñoz García, Nurse Clinical Dept. Clinical, Div. Wound Management, Smith & Nephew, Spain.

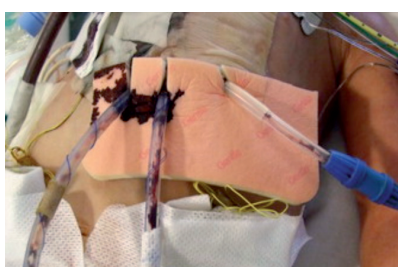
Dual function of ALLEVYN Gentle and ALLEVYN Gentle Border: Discharge control and pressure reduction



06-03-09 - Patient in paediatric UCI



06-03-09. Before and after pressure relief.



Introduction

Patients in intensive care units, due to their medical conditions and state of health, are often fitted with a large number of catheters to collect fluids, administer medication, control vital signs, etc. Because they are immobilised for long periods of time, these patients are at a high risk of developing pressure ulcers (PU), both because they are immobile and because of the pressure exerted by these catheters. The catheters carry potentially infectious discharge which could result in infection of the PU, which could lead to sepsis. Add the fragile nature of paediatric skin to this situation, and these patients are far more vulnerable to skin lesions. ALLEVYN Gentle is a foam dressing with gentle gel adhesive and ALLEVYN Gentle Border is a foam dressing with silicone adhesive, both indicated for exuding wounds in patients with fragile skin. The main advantage of these dressings is to combine the excellent exudate control provided by the hydrocellular dressings in the ALLEVYN range, together with gentle adhesion of perilesional skin, the benefit of which is minimum wound trauma and pain, reduced risk of leaks and displacement of the dressing. They also feature trilaminar technology in the ALLEVYN range with scientific evidence with regard to local pressure relief.

Patient

A 7-year-old child hospitalised in the paediatric ICU with cardiac pathology on EDMO therapy with days of evolution. He had to remain lying down throughout his stay, and his position could not be changed. He had been fitted with a large number of catheters for medication, external circulation and chest drains with capacity.

Treatment

The catheters had been fixed according to the traditional method with surgical tape or other dressings, but always for adhesive purposes, without taking pressure relief into consideration. That is why the use of ALLEVYN Gentle Border was introduced, the benefits of which were pressure relief, suitable for fragile skin (such as children's skin), which were held in place for longer because of their gentle silicone gel.

To collect fluids from the catheters, adhesive dressings were used with absorbent pads that needed to be changed practically per shift, according to the level of fluid in the catheter. These also had an adhesive which was aggressive to the child's skin. The use of ALLEVYN Gentle was started, the benefits of which were control of the exudates, reduced likelihood of infection at the insertion point, maintaining the dressing in the application zone for longer, and ease of removal thanks to the gentle gel adhesive.

Follow up / Results

The follow up took place over 10 days, the time during which the patient was hospitalised in the unit. During this time, ALLEVYN Gentle Border was used with the catheters to relieve pressure, and no pressure ulcers appeared.

In the case of using ALLEVYN Gentle to control discharge, it was observed that when changing shift, with the use of the adhesive dressing with an absorbent pad, these only needed to be changed every four days. This interval was dependent on the discharge from the catheter.

Conclusions

Combined use of ALLEVYN Gentle and ALLEVYN Gentle Border to control exudate and to relieve pressure is a new alternative in special units like this one, and in general any where the same problems arise. The benefits are reduced number of dressing changes, suitability for fragile skins because of their gentle gel adhesive, reduced likelihood of infection due to faulty collection of catheter discharge and reduced incidence of pressure ulcers.