New ALLEVYN Adhesive – a case study series

Introduction
The purpose of this case study is to evaluate the performance of the New ALLEVYN Adhesive dressing on patients with pressure ulceration. Performance indicators of the dressing include the management of exudate, wear time, conformability and secure fixation. With enhanced fluid handling capacity of New ALLEVYN Adhesive, the potential for an extended wear time profile can prove to have a direct health economic impact. Quality of life factors such as ease of dressing application, removal, and patient comfort were also evaluated.

Method
Patients with pressure ulceration entered the evaluation once an holistic assessment had been completed and New ALLEVYN Adhesive selected as the most appropriate dressing for the wound. The ALLEVYN range of dressings was already on the Trust’s wound care formulary and thus routinely available for selection. All patients included within this evaluation were residing in care homes. The Tissue Viability Nurses completed the dressing evaluation form at each visit and noted any relevant information provided by the care home staff.

Results
A total of seven case studies have been completed. The average wound duration was found to be 3.3 months. One patient died (of an unrelated illness) during the study, another was withdrawn for concordance issues, and two patients went on to complete healing. The results show that the dressing was easy to apply and remove, conformed closely to the wound bed, adhered well to the surrounding skin, and was comfortable for the patient. The dressing proved to be very efficient at handling exudate.

Combined, these factors enabled the length of time the dressing remained in place to be increased. New ALLEVYN Adhesive was left in situ for seven days on two patients whereas the previous dressing choice required changing either daily or on alternate days (silicone-based dressing/hydrocolloid). The average frequency of dressing changes was found to be one New ALLEVYN Adhesive applied every 5.5 days.

Care home staff reported that the dressing was easy to apply and remove. The adhesive provided secure fixation and was extremely well tolerated when used on fragile, excoriated skin. There were no reported problems with dressing removal, and overall we saw a significant improvement of the peri-wound skin within the first two weeks of treatment. One nurse commented that the dressing was able to stay in place longer, and not being aware of the changes in the technology of the dressing, enquired as to why this was so.

Discussion
Interpretation of the case studies demonstrated that New ALLEVYN Adhesive handled fluid well. The dressing adhered efficiently to the skin without causing trauma on removal.

The ability of the New ALLEVYN Adhesive to manage exudate has demonstrated that the wear time of the dressing has been increased. Prolonged wear time results in fewer dressing changes thus reducing the demand on nursing time and the number of dressings required. These factors impact upon the overall cost of healing pressure ulcerations.


This poster was presented at Wounds UK, Harrogate 2006
This poster was supported by an unrestricted medical grant from Smith & Nephew
*Trademarks of Smith & Nephew

17th August 2006 7th September 2006

Patient comment
‘I didn’t focus on my wound as much as previously, because the dressing was not being changed as often’.