

Use of ALLEVYN Gentle a foam dressing with soft gel adhesive, in the treatment of an occipital pressure ulcer in a paediatric patient

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Introduction

Traditionally, pressure ulcers are linked to elderly patients. However, we know that, regardless of age, any patient subjected to constant pressure in high-risk areas is susceptible to developing pressure ulcers if the pressure is not adequately relieved. This situation can be aggravated by the immobilisation of patients in intensive care units together with other circumstances such as deteriorating blood flow.

Patient

A 7-month-old patient is admitted to the paediatric ICU with Streptococcus pneumonia complicated with meningitis. Four days after being admitted, a pressure ulcer appears in the occipital zone. To deal with this situation, hyperoxygenated fatty acids are applied every shift and pressure is relieved with an ALLEVYN Heel dressing, which adapts easily to being used in this area. Postural changes are made to the extent tolerated by the patient.

Treatment

Despite taking the correct preventive measures, the ulcer progresses and at 7 days it is decided to start treatment with autolytic debridement (INTRASITE[®] Conformable), and as a dressing to control moisture and alleviate pressure the decision was made to use ALLEVYN Gentle, a dressing that, as well as containing the features of the ALLEVYN range for discharge control and local pressure relief, also contains a gentle gel adhesive suitable for fragile skins, such as children's skin. The decision is made to change the dressings every two days with a regulated treatment.

Follow-up / Results

The condition improves and by opting for conservative treatment the ulcer quickly recedes, reducing in diameter. To help the dressing to adhere, a net was used as a capeline bandage that adapted perfectly to the area. Fifteen days after being admitted to the ICU the patient is transferred to the ward with the same treatment schedule. After 2 months the ulcer has completely healed.

Conclusions

The combination of autolytic debridement with INTRASITE Conformable together with ALLEVYN Gentle foam dressing provides us with a solution to this type of paediatric pressure ulcer because it maintains the ideal moisture conditions to produce debridement while keeping the skin around the wound intact.

Moreover ALLEVYN Gentle has a dual function. On the one hand prevention, by the relief of pressure, like the rest of the ALLEVYN range, and on the other hand treatment, by creating suitable conditions for healing in a moist environment.



22-05-09 First photograph



22-05-09 Pressure relief - ALLEVYN Heel



29-05-09 Change after 7 days



16-06-09 ALLEVYN® Gentle applied



16-06-09 ALLEVYN Gentle applied



16-06-09 ALLEVYN Gentle applied



24-06-09 Change after 32 days



31-07-09 Healing of the wound

Application

