

# Evaluation of a new silicone gel-adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing as part of a pressure ulcer prevention plan for ICU patients

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## Introduction

The use of foam dressings as part of a pressure ulcer prevention protocol is gaining traction in the US. Evidence exists that the use of hydrocellular foam dressings in a preventative function may have help in the reduction of pressure ulcers.

## Aims and objectives

To evaluate a new silicone-adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing (ALLEVYN LIFE) as part of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention plan to reduce sacral/coccyx pressure ulcers in a 24 bed ICU with an average Braden Scale score of 12.3.

## Results

22 evaluation forms were completed with patients' skin remaining intact throughout the wear of the dressing.

The ALLEVYN LIFE dressing was rated as either excellent or very good in terms of:

- Ease of application
- Ease of removal
- Conformability to body contours
- Ease of re-application after skin inspection

The ALLEVYN LIFE dressing was rated as either excellent, very good or good in terms of

- Ability to remain adhered without rolling edges

As well as the skin remaining intact throughout wear of the dressing one stage 1 pressure ulcer present on admission resolved during use of the dressing and one moisture-lesion present on admission also resolved.

# Evaluation of a new silicone gel-adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing\* as part of a pressure ulcer prevention plan for ICU patients

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## Purpose

To reduce pressure ulcer incidence among patients in a critical care setting.

## Objective

To evaluate a new foam dressing for its ability to reduce pressure and to help reduce pressure ulcers among ICU patients.

## Abstract

The use of foam dressings, as part of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention plan, has gained increased interest among clinicians in North America. While a relatively new concept in the US and Canada, researchers in Spain published multiple studies on pressure reducing ability of a foam dressing over a decade ago. A statistically significant ( $p = 0.001$ ) 8-week multi-center study, comparing a padded bandage technique with a foam dressing, demonstrated a 44% incidence in heel pressure ulcers with the padded bandage and 3.3% incidence among those using the foam dressing ( $n=111$ )<sup>1</sup>. More recently, Coggins et al<sup>2</sup> and Hager et al<sup>3</sup> identified successful reduction of sacral/coccyx pressure ulcers, using a hydrocellular foam as part of a comprehensive pressure ulcer prevention plan among ICU patients.

One company has introduced a new silicone-adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing which has demonstrated, in vitro, improvements, compared to traditional silicone foam dressings, for wound management and pressure reduction.

In one center, a pre-market evaluation of the new foam dressing was conducted, as part of a comprehensive plan to reduce sacral/coccyx pressure ulcers in a 24-bed med/surg/neuro ICU. Average Braden Scale score was 12.3.

The 22 forms revealed ease of application as excellent (86%) or very good (14%); ease of removal: excellent (72%) or very good (28%); conformability: excellent (45%) or very good (55%); ability to remain adhered without rolling: excellent (82%), very good (12%) or good (6%); and ease of re-application after skin inspection: excellent (83%) or very good (17%).

The average wear time was 4 days. Patients' skin remained intact. One stage I pressure ulcer that was present on admission resolved during the use of the dressing and one patient had a resolved "moisture lesion" that was also present on admission.

## Silicone gel-adhesive hydrocellular foam dressing – for PU prevention Fontana Medical Center

Criteria	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Ease of application	86%	14%			
Ease of removal	72%	28%			
Conformability to body contours	45%	55%			
Ability to remain adhered without rolling edges	82%	12%	6%		
Ease of re-application after skin inspection	83%	17%			

### References

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\*ALLEVYN® Life Hydrocellular Foam Dressing

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