

Actilite® used on a patient with a history of chronic venous ulceration

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Incorporating community services in Exeter, East Devon and Mid Devon

Introduction

A 46 year old lady with a learning disability presented with a history of chronic venous ulceration to her right lower leg. She was referred to the tissue viability service by the vascular consultant. The main challenges were that her behaviour could be unpredictable and she was frequently non concordant with treatment. She was very resistant to the use of compression bandages however did consent to a modified compression bandage regime.

Method

When first seen the wound was covered in thick slough and was very offensive. This had resulted in the patient being banned from a local club as other members had complained about the smell. The main aim initially was to promote autolytic debridement, deodorise and minimise the risk of infection. Actilite® (Advancis Medical) was chosen as the primary dressing to go under the compression bandaging which was changed twice a week. At the start Activon Tube® was added to the Actilite® to aid autolytic debridement. This was well tolerated by the patient with no reports of pain associated with the dressing.

Results

After 2 weeks the wound was much cleaner with evidence of healthy granulation tissue so the Activon Tube® was discontinued. Treatment continued with Actilite® underneath the compression bandaging. Although at times the patient adjusted the bandages and often didn't follow advice to rest, the wound made slow steady progress over the next 2 months, becoming smaller in size and less offensive.

Conclusion

The wound has still not completely healed but despite problems with concordance on occasions, and the patient interfering with her dressings on occasions, the wound has continued to improve and reduce in size. The continued use of Actilite® has helped to ensure that any odours associated with the wound have been well controlled and there has never been any significant infection.



Right leg



After 2 weeks of treatment



After 2 months of treatment



After 11 months of treatment



After 15 months of treatment