

An evaluation of Eclypse® Contour in the management of highly exuding chronic venous leg ulcers

Leanne Atkin - Vascular Nurse Specialist, The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Introduction

Chronic venous leg ulcers are typically highly exuding wounds, affecting 1-3 per 1000 of the UK population (SIGN), characterised by poor healing rates, infection and a significant negative impact on quality of life. Excessive wound exudate is detrimental to wound healing, increasing risk of skin damage, infection and patient discomfort. Eclypse® is a highly absorbent, high capacity wound exudate management product.

The Eclypse® Contour dressing provides a completely new and innovative design which will uniquely mould to the body contours, ensuring optimum contact with the wound and effective exudate management. It is designed to reduce nursing time, number of dressing changes and the cost associated with this, and importantly reduce patient trauma associated with a high frequency of change as well as ultimately improving patient outcomes.



Eclypse® Contour

Aim

The aim of this study is to evaluate the performance of Eclypse® Contour. This evaluation will assess absorbency, fluid retention, conformability, wound progression, cost effectiveness, number and frequency of dressing changes and patient perspective / quality of life.

Method

The evaluation was conducted by the Vascular Specialist Nursing Team at Pinderfields Hospital, Vascular OP clinic over a 2 month period. Inclusion criteria were that the patients had highly exuding wounds that were not being adequately managed by their current dressing regime of foam or hydro-fibre foam dressings and required daily dressing changes. 6 cases were evaluated. There was evidence of skin maceration and extension of wound sizes. Patients were provided with verbal information. Assessment tools such as clinical visual scoring and photography were used to gauge response and clinical outcomes.

Results

In all 6 cases the Eclypse® Contour dressing was effective in absorbing and containing the high levels of exudate, allowing for increased dressing wear time. As a direct result of the exudate locking into the moisture locking core of the dressing away from the patient's skin, maceration soon started to decrease. The dressings were conformable to the contours of the varying sizes of the individual patients' limb sizes and all patients reported the dressing as being comfortable.

Case 1

63yr old male with ulceration for 2 months to the lateral aspect of the gaiter region, all areas were highly exuding and required daily dressing renewal with non-adherent dressing and suripads for the previous 4 weeks. Non-adequate management of exudate was resulting in extending ulcer size and increasing distress for the patient. Eclypse® Contour was applied and compression bandaging was commenced. The patient found the dressings comfortable and it contoured well to the limb allowing application of compression without any wrinkling of the dressing.



Initial



Week 4

Within 1 week dressing changes were reduced to twice a week. After 2 weeks the dressing changes were further reduced to weekly. At 4 week review, significant improvements were seen. The limb appeared less congested, erythema had resolved and areas of ulceration at the gaiter region had healed completely, with only a small area of ulceration below the malleolus which had reduced in size and was clean. The Eclypse® Contour dressing managed the exudate to allow healing to occur.

Case 2

64 year old lady with mixed disease ulceration of right leg, on presentation ulceration highly exuding causing maceration around lateral malleolus and extension of wound bed size. She complained of significant pain around the ulcer describing burning pain once her current dressings had become saturated. Initial Her ABPI was 0.65 and duplex confirmed SFA disease, she was listed and awaiting angioplasty. Eclypse® Contour was commenced to aid exudate management and reduced compression was commended to reduce limb oedema. Within only 2 weeks the wound and pain had improved, the Eclypse® Contour effectively held the exudate away from the wound allowing for improvement in macerated skin and reduction in wound size.



Initial



Week 2

Conclusion

Properties that should be offered by the ideal dressing choice include-

- Is highly absorbent
- Prevents leakage between dressing changes
- Prevents strike-through
- Provides protection from excoriation / maceration
- Can be used under compression
- Stays intact and can be left in place for long duration
- Minimises trauma and pain on removal
- Comfortable and conformable
- Cost effective (ref: 1)

In this evaluation Eclypse® Contour fulfilled all of the above listed properties required for an ideal dressing choice for the 6 patients included in the study, with positive outcomes in managing the high levels of exudate, reducing maceration / excoriation and

promoting healing. Eclypse® Contour is reliable and effective at management of high exudate. The contoured shape of Eclypse® Contour offers advantages in terms of conformability and patient comfort.

- In the UK, Venous leg Ulcers cost £168-£198 million per year (Ref 2)
- Wound care has been estimated to consume 25-65% of the time of community nurses (ref: 2)
- Improving healing rates and preventing recurrence of venous leg ulcers not only improves patients quality of life but reduces cost (ref: 3)

The increase in dressing wear time of Eclypse® Contour resulting in a reduction in the amount of dressing changes means that Eclypse contour will reduce nursing time, number of dressing changes and the cost associated with this, and importantly reduce patient trauma associated with a high frequency of change as well as ultimately improving patient outcomes

References

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