



CASE STUDY

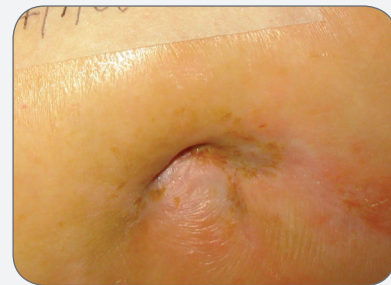
New PolyMem Wic Silver® Rope Cavity Filler Dressing Solves Difficult Tunneling Wound Problem



JAN 22
NARROW 5.0 CM LONG TUNNEL (LEFT PHOTO).
Defied filling with alginate or iodoform gauze-strips.



NARROW 3.5 CM TUNNEL (RIGHT PHOTO).
Abscess was concern.



APR 1
The wound that defied conventional tunnel treatment for 5 months closed in 10 weeks.

CASE STUDY

New PolyMem Wic Silver Rope Cavity Filler Dressing Solves Difficult Tunneling Wound Problem

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PROBLEM

An 89-year-old male with a history of coronary artery disease arrived at the Long-Term-Care facility post right femur fracture with an open reduction internal fixation and a stage IV right trochanter pressure ulcer with deep tunneling at 12 and 3 o'clock. Post-surgical complications, including deep vein thrombosis, aspiration pneumonia and intracranial hemorrhage that left the patient confused, bedridden and dysphagic. Multiple recurring episodes of diarrhea from recurrent C-difficile colitis resulted in severe Candidiasis (perineal, buttock, groin and scrotum).



JAN 22

No tunnel healing during 5 months of conventional modern wound treatment.

Lab results included:
WBC 7.02, Hgb 9.8, Hct 31.5, lymphocytes 22.8, Cr 0.7 BUN 45.



JAN 22

Narrow 5.0 cm long tunnel defied filling with alginate or iodoform gauze strips.



JAN 22

Narrow 3.5 cm tunnel also defied filling and thus healing. Abscess was concern.



JAN 22

New PolyMem Wic Silver Rope cavity filler was easily inserted into tunnels.

The patient was on a low air loss mattress with heels floated; he was turned hourly. His nutritional and hydration needs were met via gastrostomy feeding. The main cavity of the wound was dressed with enzymes, alginate and/or silver hydrofiber for five months. But despite repeated attempts, the openings of the long, narrow tunnels were too small to thread more than a small corner of thin alginate or 1/4" wide iodoform gauze packing strips into them. At this time the wound was 3.5 cm x 3.0 cm x 1.0 cm deep with 30% granulation tissue, 10% epithelized and 60% pale red tissue with slightly rolled edges, but tunnels at 12 and 3 o'clock remained 3.5 cm and 5.0 cm long. The wound produced large amounts of serosanguineous drainage.

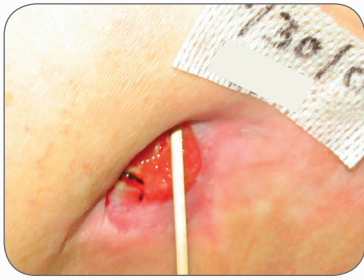
RATIONALE

The tunnels remaining their original size as the wounds closed raised the concern of creating non-healing abscesses. A method of balancing the moisture in the tunnels by absorbing the excess exudate, and stimulating healing without damaging the wound bed was needed. In independent studies, other modern silver dressings inhibited human keratinocyte and fibroblast growth.

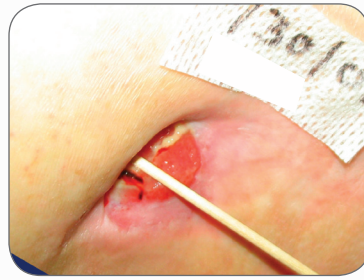
In contrast, human cells contacting PolyMem Silver® dressings proliferated after 24 hours. PolyMem Silver dressings are designed to draw wound fluid (with the microbes) into the dressings. The microbes are killed there, avoiding excessive silver leaching into the wound bed where it can damage healing tissues.

OBJECTIVES

1. Consider the advantages of using a moisture-balancing rope dressing that is easy to insert and remove from long, narrow tunneling wounds.
2. Explore the evidence for the use of PolyMem dressings to promote rapid wound healing.
3. Review the published independent research on the relative cytotoxicity of various silver dressings with respect to the use of PolyMem Silver dressings for periods of greater than two weeks.



JAN 30
After only one week, tunnel is already markedly shorter: 4.0 cm instead of 5.0 cm deep.



JAN 30
The 3.5 cm deep tunnel was now only 2.0 cm deep. The visible wound was also closing.



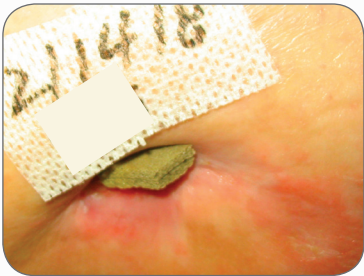
FEB 7
After only two weeks of using the new Rope, the 5.0 cm deep tunnel is only 1.0 cm deep.



FEB 7
At two weeks using PolyMem Wic Silver Rope, the 3.5 cm tunnel is 0.75 cm.



FEB 7
No manual wound cleansing is needed. The visible wound is now only 3.0 cm x 1.8 cm.



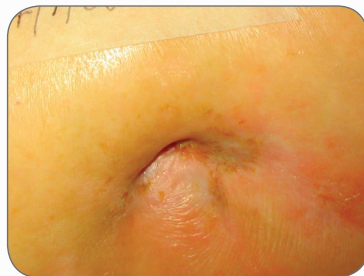
FEB 14
At three weeks, there is only one small tunnel remaining; rope fills the entire wound.



FEB 25
At 5 weeks, undermining is 0.5 cm and the visible wound is only 2.5 cm x 2.0 cm.



MAR 3
At 6 weeks, the visible wound is 1.5 cm x 1.5 cm x 0.5 cm deep. Still using Rope.



APR 1
The wound that defied conventional tunnel treatment for 5 months closed in 10 weeks.

METHODOLOGY

The WOCN suggested trying the new PolyMem Wic Silver Rope cavity filler designed specifically for tunneling wounds. The Rope dressing was easily inserted into each tunnel and was cut to length so that the ends filled the open wound bed. The PolyMem Wic Silver Rope cavity filler was then covered with a Shapes by PolyMem Silver dressing to provide the optimal moisture vapor transmission rate. Removing the saturated dressings was atraumatic and easy because they are non-adherent and do not break apart. Since the dressings continuously cleanse wounds, additional manual wound cleansing was not needed at dressing changes.

RESULTS

At the first weekly assessment, the wound bed was 90% granulation tissue and 10% epithelized and with 100% open margins. Maximum tunnel length had decreased from 5.0 cm to 4.0 cm. The tunnels filled in, then the cavity wound steadily healed. The wound, which had failed to heal with 5 months of treatment using other modern wound dressings, was completely closed after only 10 weeks of treatment with the new PolyMem Wic Silver Rope cavity filler.

CONCLUSION

The new PolyMem Wic Silver Rope cavity filler is very easy to insert into long narrow tunnels and helped heal this patient quickly, matching our experience with other PolyMem Silver dressings.



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NPUAP 11th Biennial Conference. Poster #43. February 27-29, 2009. Arlington, VA USA.

* This version has been modified from the original; it reflects PolyMem branding.

PolyMem, PolyMem Silver, PolyMem Wic, Wic, PolyMem Wic Silver, PolyMem Wic Silver Rope, PolyMem Max, Max, PolyMem Max Silver, Shapes, Shapes by PolyMem, The Shape of Healing, The Pink Dressing, SportsWrap, SportsWrapST, More Healing • Less Pain, interlocking circles design, PolyMem For Sports, Not too Loose...Not too Tight...Just Right!, Ferris and FMC Ferris and design are marks owned by or licensed to Ferris. The marks may be registered or pending in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.