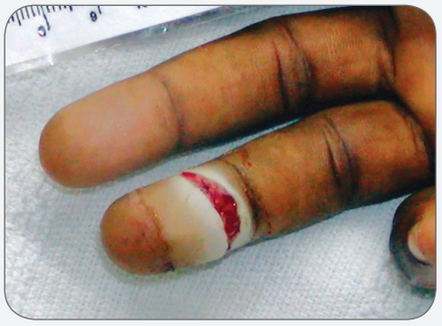
PolyMem® SILVER

CASE STUDY

Activation of a Stalled Traumatic Finger Wound With PolyMem Silver® Dressings



BEFORE

AFTER

CASE STUDY

Activation of a Stalled Traumatic Finger Wound With PolyMem Silver Dressings

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PROBLEM

A healthy eighteen-year-old female from Ghana, West Africa, presented with an acute cooking-accident crush wound to the right fourth finger, which prevented her from working. The relative humidity during treatment was often well below 10% and always below 30%, which made maintaining a moist wound-healing environment challenging. After eight days of treatment with triple antibiotic ointment (TAO) and gauze, healing stalled, leaving the painful 0.5 cm x 1.5 cm wound edematous and avascular with periwound maceration.

RATIONALE

PolyMem Silver dressings have demonstrated the ability to provide antimicrobial benefits in low humidity environments because of residual moisture in the dressing and its natural hydrophilic action. Use of the dressing has been shown to reduce the risk of periwound maceration. PolyMem Silver dressings have also been used successfully to decrease the chronic inflammatory reaction which is known to interfere with healing. The dressing's uncomplicated design and protocol facilitates teaching its use to unskilled caregivers. For these reasons, wound management was changed to PolyMem Silver dressings, without use of TAO, to activate the stalled wound and decrease inflammation.

METHODOLOGY

PolyMem Silver dressings were applied and changed every other day. This product contains a wound-friendly surfactant, which provides continuous built-in cleansing action, often eliminating the need for wound bed cleansing during dressing changes. After eight days of treatment with PolyMem Silver dressings, the patient was able to continue the treatment without assistance.

RESULTS

Pain and inflammation immediately decreased, and vascularization increased, as evidenced by minimal bleeding at dressing changes and granulation of the wound bed. The patient returned to work, fully healed, 20 days after initiation of management with the PolyMem Silver dressings.

CONCLUSION

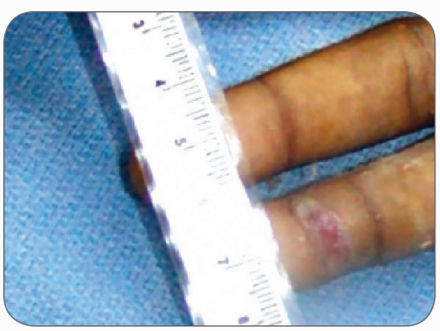
PolyMem Silver dressings successfully activated the stalled wound and were used until closure. The easy-to-use dressings kept the wound bed appropriately moist and clean, allowing the patient to do dressing changes herself.

NOV. 15 - "BEFORE."
Healing stalled – no granulation despite eight days of treatment with triple antibiotic ointment. Skin macerated. Began new treatment regime using PolyMem Silver dressings.

NOV. 17
Two days of treatment with PolyMem Silver dressings. Wound edges are filling in; granulation tissue is forming in the wound bed. Inflammation and periwound maceration are decreasing.

NOV. 20
Dramatic progress in healing in just five days. Wound bed fully granulating, no maceration. Treatment: remove PolyMem Silver dressing, apply a new PolyMem Silver dressing, secure.

NOV. 24
Almost healed after nine days. No wound bed cleansing required. Patient is able to do dressing changes herself, allowing her to travel.



DEC. 6 - "AFTER."
Patient returned from travels to show off healed wound. Able to return to work.

OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss problematic issues related to an acute traumatic wound, which prevents a patient from earning a living.
2. Discuss the difficulties in keeping a wound and the surrounding tissue appropriately hydrated in extreme environmental conditions.
3. Recognize the advantages of using a product that the patient can learn to apply on her own. Is decreasing pain a helpful motivator?
4. Demonstrate that PolyMem Silver dressings can be used to activate stalled wound healing and enhance wound healing until closure.

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19th Annual Symposium on Advanced Wound Care (SAWC). Poster #23. April 30 - May 3, 2006. San Antonio, TX USA.

WOCN Society 38th Annual Conference. Poster #156/Abstract #1713. June 24 - 28, 2006. Minneapolis, MN USA.

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

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