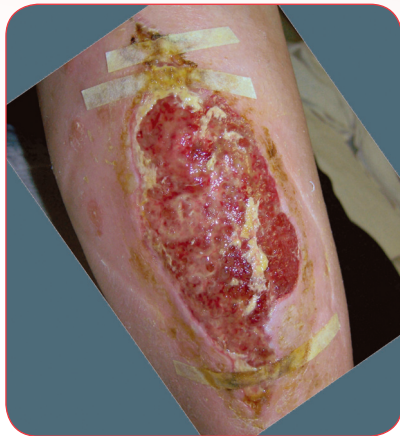


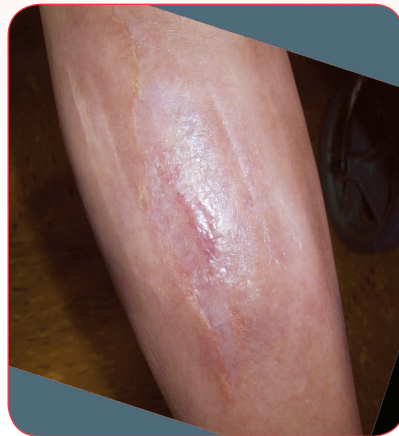
PolyMem[®]

CASE STUDY

Complete Pain Relief Using PolyMem Dressings to Treat a Category III Skin Tear to Complete Closure



BEFORE



AFTER

Complete Pain Relief Using PolyMem Dressings to Treat a Category III Skin Tear to Complete Closure

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PROBLEM

A 51-year-old female long-term-care resident suffered a fall, resulting in a large hematoma to her R lateral shin. Comorbidities included currently well-controlled diabetes with a BMI of 31.6 and HbA1c of 5.7, chronic anemia, psoriasis with long-term topical steroid use, hypothyroidism, and recent pin placement in the L leg with a secondary infection. The patient fell a second time, breaking open the area of the hematoma into a 13.0 cm x 5 cm x 0.1 cm full-thickness skin tear. Steri-strips were applied, but the ER personnel found no salvageable flap and were unable to suture the wound. The patient was sent back to her room with antibiotic ointment and a non-adherent dressing to be changed twice a day. She was seen by the wound team the day following the second fall.

RATIONALE

PolyMem dressings are proven to provide significant wound pain relief by inhibiting nociceptor activity at the wound site. They contain a gentle cleanser, so after initial debridement and/or cleaning no manual wound cleansing is usually needed, allowing for less disruption of the new growth at the wound bed and very quick and easy dressing changes. The clinician's previous experience with PolyMem dressings on skin tears led to the conclusion that, "it helps heal them quickly, painlessly and does help the bruising go away."

Due to the patient's debilitated state and co-morbidities, infection was a serious concern. PolyMem Silver dressings have been found effective against: *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA and Non-MRSA), *Enterococcus faecalis* (VRE), *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Candida albicans*. Recently, several other modern silver dressings were found to be severely cytotoxic in vivo, but cells in contact with PolyMem Silver dressings proliferated. This further affirms the author's decision to use PolyMem Silver dressings.

METHODOLOGY

The dried blood was cleansed from the wound gently with sterile water. Initially, the periwound area was swollen with induration and the wound drained a moderate amount of purulent light yellow exudate. So, a PolyMem Silver dressing was applied and changed daily for the first week of treatment. When the exudate was no longer purulent, PolyMem dressings were used instead. These were initially changed daily, then every-other-day, every three days and finally every five days. PolyMem dressings were used to complete wound closure. The wound bled often during the first two weeks, so it was cleansed daily then, but it was not cleansed throughout the treatment as would have been necessary with other dressings.

RESULTS

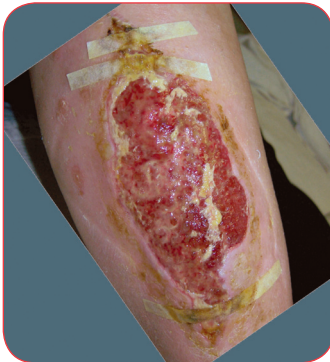
Granulation tissue formed quickly, with complete wound closure in only three months. The patient did not have wound pain at any time after the first day, despite the depth of the wound. Slough was drawn into the dressing, revealing a clean wound bed at dressing changes. So, after the first two weeks, manual wound bed cleansing was not performed.

CONCLUSION

PolyMem dressings were effective and easy to apply. After the initial cleansing and dressing of the wound by the wound team, the patient remained completely free from wound pain. The wound cleaned up quickly and healed in only three months, much faster than the clinician would have expected when using other dressings.

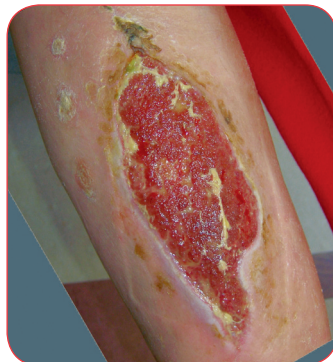
OBJECTIVES

1. Review evidence for the use of PolyMem dressings on skin tears.
2. Discuss the benefits of using PolyMem dressings, which have been shown to help reduce wound pain not only during dressing changes, but also while the dressing is in place.
3. Consider the advantages of using PolyMem dressings in terms of passive continuous cleansing of the wound bed, which often eliminates painful and time-consuming wound cleansing during dressing changes.



JANUARY 10

13 cm x 5 cm x 0.1 cm
Purulent light yellow exudate.
Daily PolyMem Silver dressings
initiated. No wound pain after
the first day of treatment.



JANUARY 17

11.5 cm x 5 cm
Serous exudate. Changed to
PolyMem dressings. The
patient still states she has no
wound pain at all.



JANUARY 30

10 cm x 4.1 cm
No wound cleansing needed
for past week. Continuing
PolyMem dressings.



FEBRUARY 7

9.8 cm x 3.1 cm
95% granulation tissue. Still
no pain at dressing changes or
while dressing is in place.



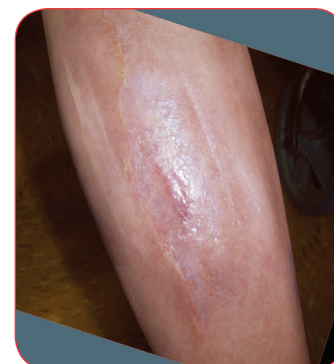
FEBRUARY 21

5.6 cm x 2.2 cm
100% granulation tissue.
Dressings are now being
changed every other day.



MARCH 21

3 cm x 0.9 cm
100% granulation tissue.
Dressings are now being
changed every third day.



APRIL 4

Closed. No wound pain
during the entire time of
treatment (after day 1) with
PolyMem dressings.

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

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