

An investigation of Cutimed® Sorbact® as an antimicrobial alternative in wound management

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Paper:

Wounds UK, 2008, 4(2), 10-18

Introduction:

Antimicrobial dressings play a major role in the effective management of both acute and chronic wounds. This study investigated whether the use of a new dressing Cutimed® Sorbact® which incorporates the principle of hydrophobic interaction, offers an effective form of antimicrobial management in chronic wounds.

Objective:

This study was performed to obtain detailed information about the efficacy of Cutimed® Sorbact® in the management of wounds of chronic character not healed in the primary care.

Material and methods:

This European multi-centre study was undertaken at 4 wound healing hospital centres with accredited wound specialists. Patients with varying wound aetiologies and wound locations were enrolled in the study.

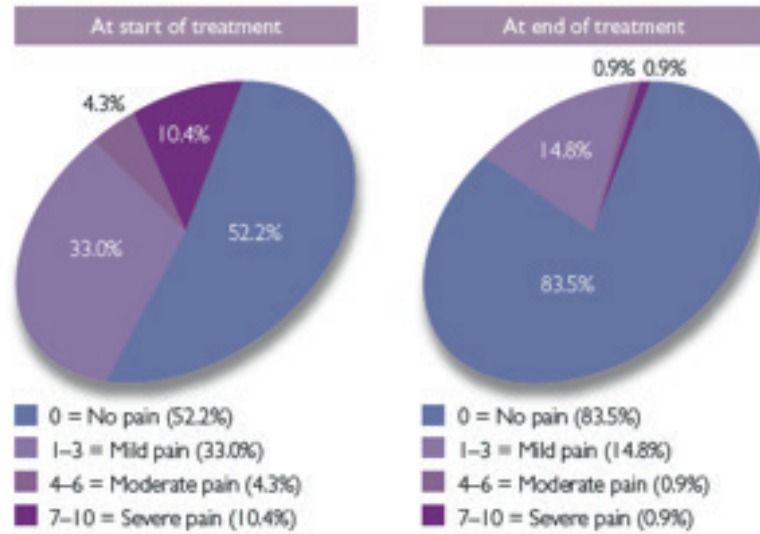
Cutimed® Sorbact® was used for all patients presenting with wounds deemed to be infected or with high risk of infection. This evaluation was based on clinical criteria and on local signs. A wide variety of wounds of different aetiologies were treated using the approach to wound management adopted by the participating clinics. A recognised protocol based on the Wound Healing Continuum (Gray et al, 2006) was followed. Wound healing progression was monitored as per normal practice and a standardised case report form was used to monitor and record the progress.

Results:

OVERALL results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of 116 patients (mean age 63 years) were enrolled.• The mean treatment period was 37 days (range = 4–134 days).• The mean frequency of dressing change was 2.5 per week.
Results for WOUNDS INFECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wound infection was diagnosed in 98 patients (84%).• One patient developed a wound infection during the treatment.• There were no incidents of recurrences of successfully treated wound infections.• Less than 10% of the patients received additional antibiotic treatment.• In 79 patients (81%), the wound was successfully treated while in 19 cases (19%) the wound was incompletely cured at the end of the recorded treatment period.
Results for WOUND HEALING	<p>The final treatment outcomes were classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stagnating – 7 cases (6%)• Worse – 1 case (1%)• Improved – 84 cases (72%)• Cured – 24 cases (21%)

Results for WOUND PAIN

The pain reported at the beginning and at the end of treatment is shown below:



Results for COMPATIBILITY

- When necessary, Cutimed® Sorbact® was combined with other dressings.
- Depending on the degree of exudate present, amorphous hydrogels, alginates, hydrocolloids, foam dressings, film dressings or absorbent swabs were all concomitantly used.
- Participating clinicians rated hydrogels as the best combination.
- Ointment dressings were not used as fatty substances can inhibit the bacterial binding effect of Cutimed® Sorbact®.

Conclusion:

- Cutimed® Sorbact® displayed a good level of efficacy as an antimicrobial dressing within a phased wound care programme.
- 81% of wounds with signs of infection at treatment start were successfully treated.
- Of all cases treated complete cure was seen in 21% and improvements in a further 72%.
- The principle of hydrophobicity in dressings offered an alternative to the previously established antimicrobial products.

Summary:

This study that evaluated the use of Cutimed® Sorbact® under normal day-to-day conditions, showed the product to be an efficient tool to reduce perifocal inflammation. The product provided an uncomplicated handling during dressing changes, proved to be well tolerated and demonstrated broad compatibility with other wound management products.

Antimicrobial dressings play a major role in the effective management of both acute and chronic wounds. This study demonstrated that Cutimed® Sorbact® offers a cost-effective flexible treatment alternative as the dressings are available in different shapes and sizes.

Cutimed® Sorbact® uses a natural approach to wound healing, with no chemically active agents, using only the physical principle of hydrophobic interaction. The product causes no known side-effects, no allergy risk, no cytotoxicity or risk of bacterial and fungal resistance development.

Reference:

Gray D, Cooper P, Timmons J (2006) Essential Wound Management: An Introduction for Undergraduates. Wounds UK, Aberdeen.