

Chronic Lower Extremity Ulceration-Use of a Leptospermum Honey Impregnated Alginate* to Accelerate Wound Closure

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Introduction

Chronic lower extremity venous ulceration presents ongoing challenges to clinicians who manage exudates, pain and inflammation. This study was designed to evaluate treatment effects of leptospermum honey impregnated calcium alginate dressings* for chronic lower extremity ulceration

Purpose

To evaluate wound healing using a leptospermum honey impregnated calcium alginate dressing* and compression bandaging for the treatment of chronic lower extremity ulceration.

Methods

Eight patients with chronic venous ulceration were enrolled in a 12 week trial. All wounds had previously been non-responsive to treatment with compression bandaging along with either alginate or collagen dressings. Leptospermum honey impregnated calcium alginate dressings* were applied once weekly along with compression bandaging. Wounds were assessed weekly using photo planimetry and visual inspection. Pain was assessed using a visual analog scale, and blood glucose levels were self-monitored.

Results

Use of leptospermum honey impregnated calcium alginate dressings* for chronic lower extremity wounds demonstrated accelerated healing, diminished pain, inflammation, exudates and maceration. Wound healing was accelerated in all cases with 100% closure for 5 patients in 6 weeks. The remaining 3 patients achieved 75% closure at the end of the study period (12 weeks). The overall healing rate was 91.375% for all 8 wounds. Diabetic patients (n=5) performed routine glucose monitoring throughout the trial and no change in their usual glucose level was noted with the use of the honey dressing at any time.

Discussion/Conclusion

Leptospermum honey impregnated calcium alginate dressings* accelerated wound closure, decreased pain and inflammation, assisted with management of exudates and periwound edema and did not produce a rise in blood sugar in diabetic patients with chronic lower extremity ulceration.

* MEDIHONEY™, Derma Sciences, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey.

