Wound Dressing Considerations & Categories

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Objectives

• Review dressing considerations for optimal wound healing.

• Discriminate characteristics of advanced wound products by category.
Optimal Wound Healing

Wound

Dressing

Resident
Dressing Considerations

- Wound Bed
- Removal
- Barrier

- Location
- Cost effectiveness
- Sensitivities

Bovine, latex, adhesives, fiberglass, sulfur
Dressing Considerations

Dry or Wet?
Clean?
Cost & usage

Follow manufacturer instructions.

Dressing Choice
Advanced Wound Products (AWP)

- Moist Wound Healing
- Bacterial Barrier
- Thermoregulation

Advanced

Active

Interactive
Moist Wound Healing
Standard of care for wound management

Consider wound etiology, goals, etc.

• Dry, stable heel ulcer
• Dry gangrene
• Resident status/wishes at end-of-life
Moist Wound Healing

- ↓ Pain
- ↓ Edema
- Softens eschar
- Temperature
- Excludes bacteria
- May be waterproof
- May reduce friction
- ↑ Cosmesis
- Ease of use
- Frequency of change
Advance Wound Products (AWP)

Bacterial Barrier

• Inherent Barrier
  – Bacteria
  – Liquid

• Preserve phagocytic function
AWP - Thermoregulation

• Limit the Effects of Tissue Cooling
  – Vasoconstriction
  – Hypoxia
  – ↓ Leukocyte mobility
  – ↓ Phagocytic ability
AWP- Moisture Vapor Transfer

• Moisture Vapor Transfer Rates (MVTR)
  – Loss of water vapor from intact skin is 240 – 1920 g/m²/24 hours
  – Loss of water vapor from an open wound, 7000+ g/m²/24 hours
Dressing Categories

• **Primary dressing**
  - Direct contact with wound bed
  - Interacts with wound tissue
  - Therapeutic & Protective function

• **Secondary dressing**
  - Secure primary dressing
  - Increases ability of treatment to meet the wound needs
  - Therapeutic & Protective function
Amount of Drainage

Slight

- Hydrogel
- Gauze
- Composites (variable based on component ingredients)

Heavy

- Hydrocolloid
- Collagen
- Calcium Alginate
- Foam (When used as primary)

Dressing Options
Transparent Film

- Semi-permeable
- Waterproof
- Bacterial barrier
- Autolytic debridement
- Light exudate
- May be difficult to apply or tear fragile skin
Transparent Films

[Image of wound with measuring guide] [Image of wound on leg]

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Hydrogel

- Hydrate wound bed
- Autolytic debridement
- Atraumatic
- Light exudate
- Can dehydrate if not covered
- Maceration possible
Hydrogels
Gauze

- Mechanical debridement
- Conformable
- Use in combination with other products
- Can be painful to remove
- More frequent dressing changes
- Permeable to bacteria
- ? Cost effectiveness
Gauze
Hydrocolloid

• Self-adherent
• Bacterial barrier
• Autolytic debridement
• Decrease pain
• Cost effective
• **NOT** for infected wounds, tracts or over exposed tendon/bone
Hydrocolloids
Collagen

- Absorbent, non-adherent
- Easy application
- Stimulate new tissue
- Support autolytic debridement

- **NOT** for full-thickness, 3° burns or eschar
Collagens
Foam

- Absorption
- Oxygen permeability
- Minimal trauma
- Autolytic debridement
- **NOT** for use on dry eschar
Foams

- As Primary Dressings

![Amount of Drainage Graph]

- Slight
- Hydrogel
- Transparent Film

- Heavy
- Calcium Alginate
- Foam

Dressing Options

When used as primary
Foams

- As Secondary Dressings
Calcium Alginate

• Absorbent
• Biocompatible
• Atraumatic removal
• Autolytic debridement
• Cost-effective
Calcium Alginate
Composite Dressings

• Combine two physically different components into one dressing

• Features MUST include:
  – bacterial barrier
  – absorptive layer other than alginate, foam, hydrocolloid, or hydrogel
  – a semi - or non-adherent wound covering
Composite Dressings

Advantages

• facilitates autolytic debridement
• may be safe with infected wounds
  – check mfr instructions
• easy application & removal
• can be primary or secondary dressing

Disadvantages

• requires intact/healthy skin border
Composites
**Amount of Drainage**

- **Slight**
  - Hydrogel
  - Hydrocolloid
  - Gauze
  - Collagen

- **Heavy**
  - Calcium Alginate
  - Foam

**Composites**
variable based on component ingredients

**Dressing Options**
Review Questions

1. Moist wound healing practices provide the following advantages **EXCEPT:**
   A. Decreases pain
   B. Promotes autolytic debridement
   C. Lowers the temperature of the wound environment
   D. Increases cosmesis

2. Name one indication when moist wound healing would not be appropriate.

3. Match the following AWP to its most common role in wound therapy:
   A. Hydrogel  ______ Absorption of fluid
   B. Collagen  ______ Hydrate wound bed
   C. Calcium Alginate  ______ Stimulates new tissue
Questions?

For more information about this presentation or other educational activities, please contact info@amtwoundcare.com
References

• Slide 7:

• Slides 10 & 11: