A Clinical Evaluation of Silicone and Silicone Bordered Super Absorbent wound dressings under Compression or Compared with No Compression in Patients with Venous leg ulcers

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Aim

To evaluate the effectiveness of two Super Absorbent (SAP) wound dressings
a) having a silicone adhesive interface and
b) having a silicone adhesive interface with a border (with/without compression) for the treatment of venous leg ulcers (VLUs).

Background

Compression therapy is a first line treatment for patients with VLU , promoting healing by targeting the underlying venous disease to improve venous return, minimising or reversing the vascular changes that occur and which leads to venous ulceration. The use of wound dressings under compression therapy is problematic as the additional pressure exerted on any dressing under compression may affect the dressing's ability to manage exudate. This study evaluates two SAP dressings (Silicone and Silicone Bordered) and presents evidence to support their effectiveness in treating VLU under compression.

Methods

Two separate evaluations were undertaken assessing the performance of a) and b), n=50 patients in both groups with acute and chronic wounds (moderate to high wound exudate levels) and requiring exudate management as part of their treatment, see Figures 1a - f

A sub-group analysis was undertaken on this data on VLU patients either receiving or not receiving compression therapy, a subsequent comparison in terms of exudate management and clinical outcomes was undertaken.

Figure 1a

Figure 1b

Figure 1c

Figure 1d

Figure 1e

Figure 1f

Results - Figures 2 - 5

Both wound dressings were as effective at:

- exudate management
- improving healing progression
- reducing damage to and improving that status of peri-wound skin
- Improving patient outcomes (including pain) under compression as compared with the both dressing's performance without compression. The performance of both dressings were also rated highly by clinicians/patient groups. All the clinicians indicated that they would continue to use this wound dressing.

Figure 2

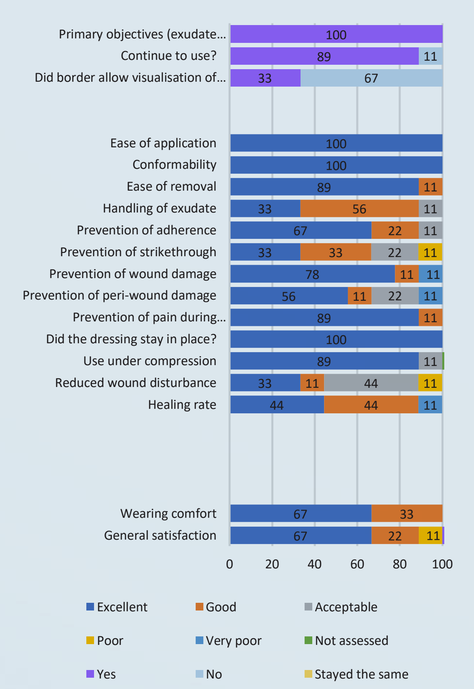


Figure 3

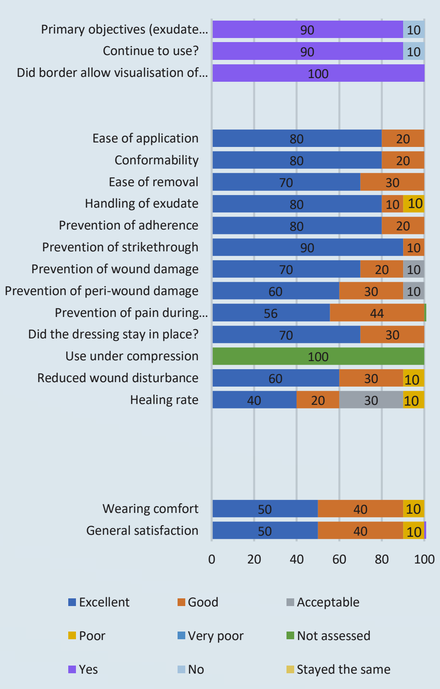


Figure 4

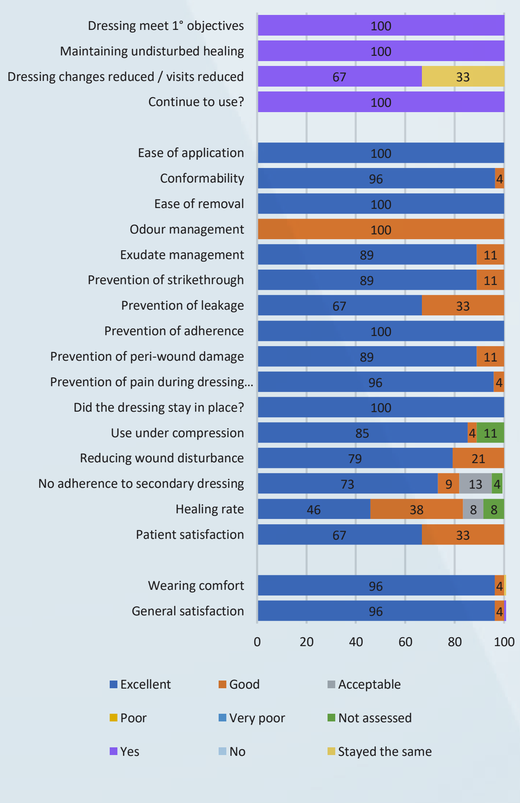
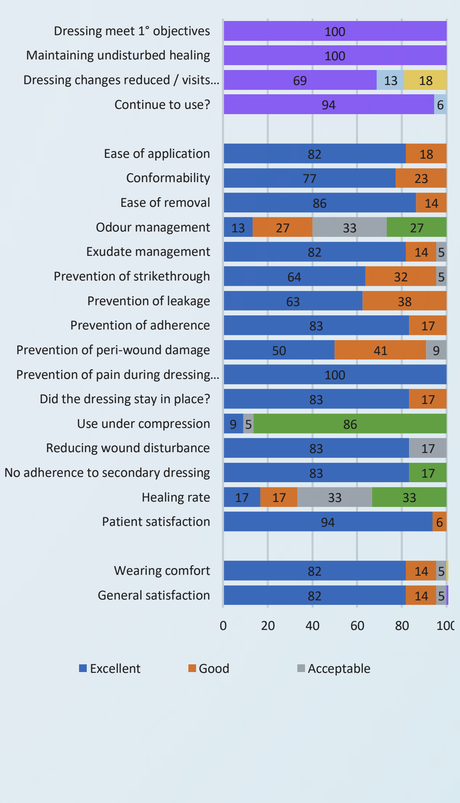


Figure 5



Discussion

Discussion: Overall both dressings were proven to be highly effective when used in conjunction with compression therapy in the treatment of VLU.

Conclusion

Zetuvit® Plus Silicone/Silicone Border can be used to manage moderate to high levels of wound exudate without impairing adjunctive compression therapy.

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