

How Industry and the NHS can work together to improve patient outcomes in relation to exudate management

HARTMANN



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Introduction

Exudate management is crucial in wound healing, effective assessment and management of exudate is key to ensuring timely wound healing (World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS)).

The Burden of wounds study (Guest et al 2020) has shown the cost of wound care to be rising exponentially, using a dressing that can offer a longer wear time and handle higher levels of exudate can help to reduce this cost burden by reducing the number of dressings used and improving time to healing (Romanelli et al 2009). Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and reduced resources a round table meeting supported by HARTMANN and attended by 11 clinicians from 5 NHS trusts was held on the 9th June 2021. The purpose of this round table was to discuss the future of exudate management, the discussion included the challenges that exudate management posed and the recent outcomes of the Burden of wounds study (Guest et al 2020). It was important to understand how industry and healthcare professionals can work together to improve patient outcomes without adding stress to an already stretched healthcare service especially during these unprecedented times.

Method

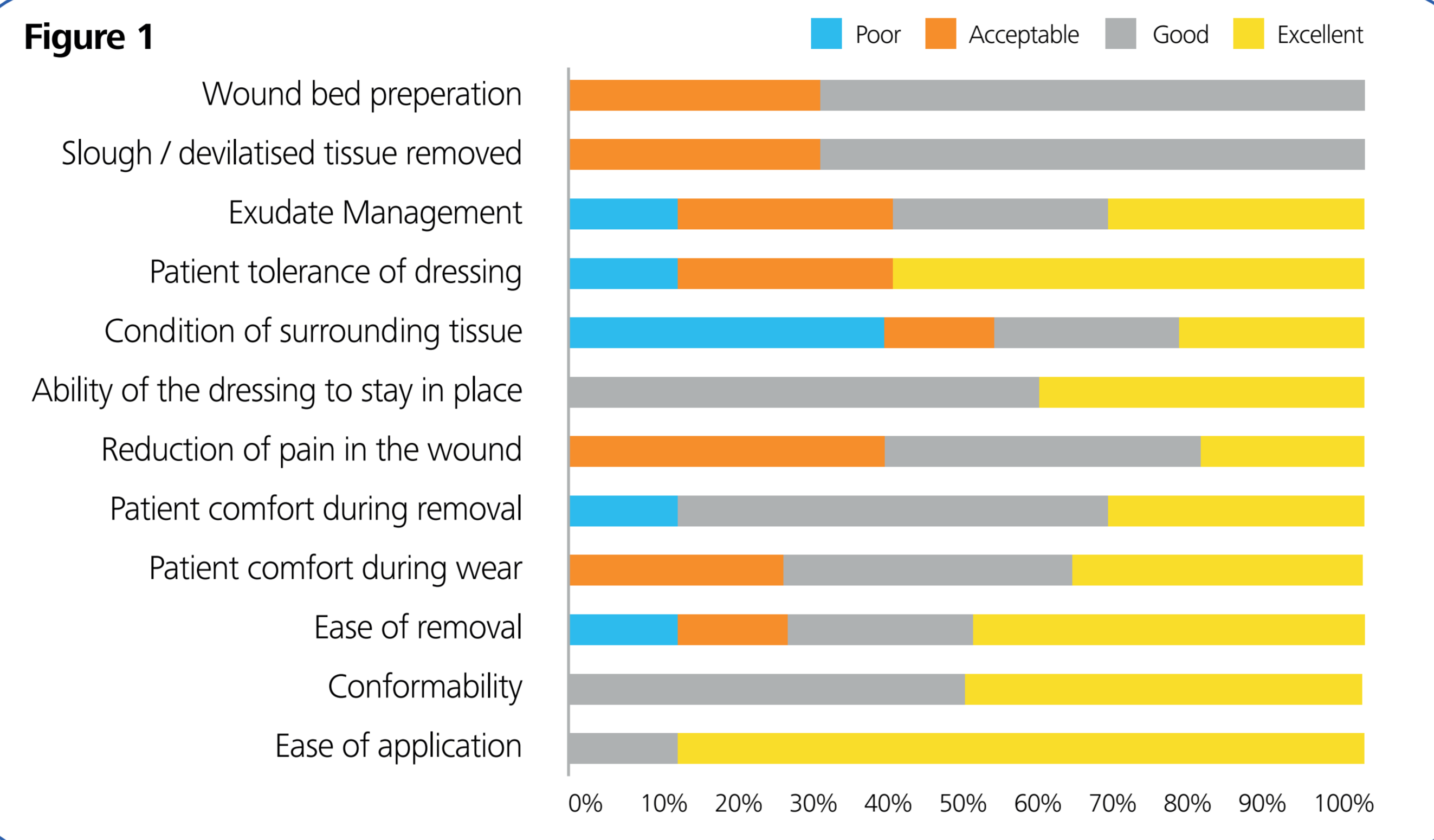
Clinicians from 3 of the trusts that attended the meeting agreed to work collaboratively to review Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border (ZPSB). The aim was to understand if ZPSB would offer greater benefits from the current dressings used by the trusts. A standard evaluation form was provided to the teams and it was agreed they would complete 3 dressing changes or review for 2 weeks whichever was the longest duration. It was agreed that working in collaboration would reduce the burden of multiple evaluations by one trust and would also offer variation in patient demographics.

Results (See Figure 1)

Eight evaluations were completed. There were multiple wound types, these included: Pressure ulcers, Traumatic wounds, Surgical wounds, Abscess and Fungating lesions. The most common dressing size used during the evaluation was 10cm x 10cm.

- 100% rated ease of application Good or Excellent
- 100% rated the dressing as good or excellent at staying in place
- 75% rated the comfort of dressing during wear to be Good or Excellent
- 87.5% rated the comfort of removal of the dressing Good or Excellent
- 87 % stated the clinical management of exudate management was achieved (note 1 evaluation was blank therefore not included in results)

Figure 1

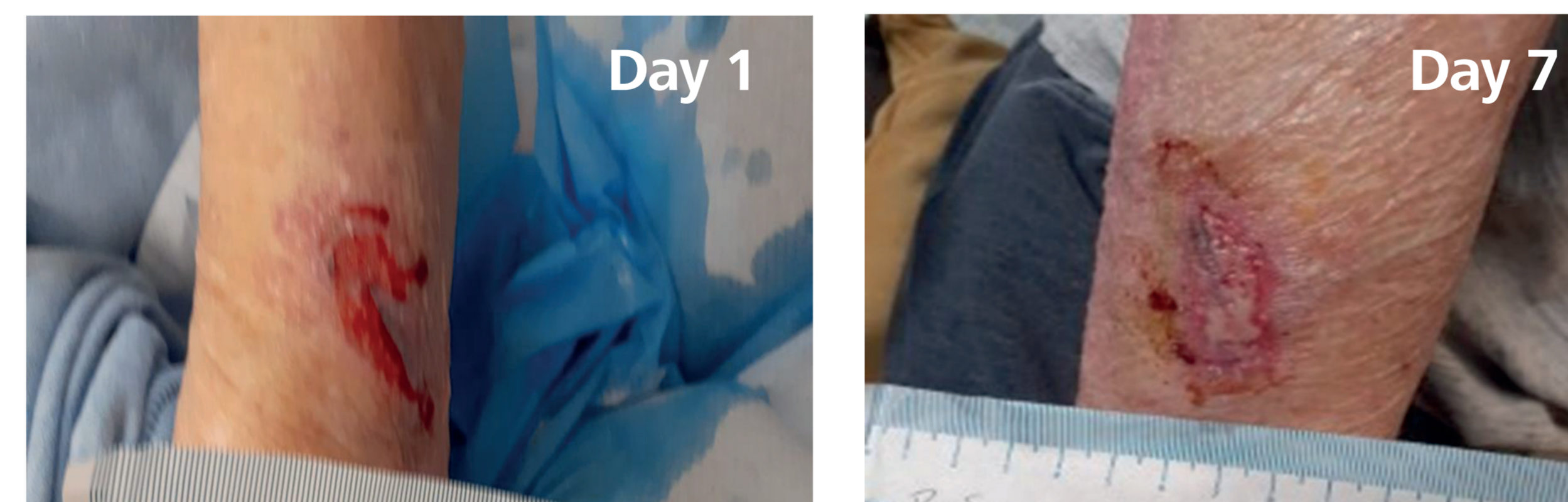


Further Results showed:

- Of all responses documented (6/8) 100% stated the clinician would include for formulary inclusion.
- Of those that recorded pain score 83% stated their pain to be the same or less than when using the previous product

Case Study

Male patient with Skin Tear to arm:



In this case study the Zetuvit® plus silicone border maintained the exudate, the dressing stayed in place, protected the peri wound skin and facilitated healing.

Discussion

Foam dressings are commonly used for exudate management however it is recognised that these dressings may struggle when managing large amounts of exudate especially under compression, leading to complications such as maceration (British National Formulary 2020).

Using a super absorbent has been shown to be successful in managing moderate to high levels of exudate (Barrett et al 2020).

Covid 19 affected health professionals in many ways, including burnout. Burnout can be described as when demands exceed the resources that we have; the level of work is very high and the resources respond are not adequate, such as not having the skills, training, or equipment, or having the resources in teams or organisations such as staff shortages, lack of equipment or inadequate technologies (House of commons 2021). This multi trust evaluation shows that when collaborating greater results can be achieved. It has allowed the clinicians to gain a thorough review of the dressing and its capabilities without the need for having to undertake evaluations per trust.

Conclusion

HARTMANN recognised the high stress that was on nurses during the pandemic and wanted to ensure they did not put further pressure onto an already affected nurse force. Working in collaboration reduced the need for multiple evaluations by one team and lightened the load for all. By working in collaboration, the clinical teams were able to easily gain 8 evaluation and the results show the dressing to be easy to apply, comfortable during wear time and effective in exudate management. These results will support the trusts in being able to make an informed decision that did not put extra pressure on resources.

References

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