



INTRODUCING WOUND BALANCE

WOUNDS | **UK**

WHAT IS THE 'WOUND BALANCE' CONCEPT?

Wound balance is a concept that aims to integrate various critical parameters which offer continuity, individualised care and support clinical decision-making, to place the patient at the centre of all care¹. With patient goals being priority, the shift in focus moves from managing wounds to leveraging intention of healing wounds whenever possible and as early as possible.

The wound balance approach aims to provide clinicians with the information to understand the science of wound healing, in addition to the skills in how to communicate this effectively with patients to help them to get the best out of their treatments and, ultimately, achieve good clinical outcomes.

FACTORS AFFECTING WOUND HEALING

Identifying factors affecting wound healing is crucial to achieving wound balance. These may include¹:



Wound Care

- › Excessive protease levels e.g. matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), elastase
- › Other biomarker shifts
- › Nutrient/oxygen deficiency
- › Comorbidities.



Patient Care

- › Patient's ability to comply
- › Impact of quality of life
- › Lack of support network
- › Environment and hygiene
- › Psychosocial factors
- › Level of education and literacy.



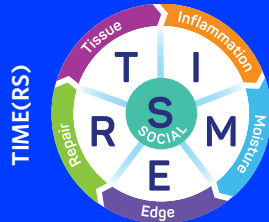
Clinical Care

- › Consistency in wound care treatment/provider
- › Missed early signs of chronicity
- › Habitual wound management
- › Limited education/training.

CLINICAL TOOLS AND GUIDANCE



Wound Assessment Tool



Dressing Selection

- Excessive protease levels are the most significant factors inhibiting healing that have been identified
- Dressings can be selected that address factors associated with stalled healing through protease modulation.

1. ABSORPTION

Uptake of wound inhibitors, microorganisms.

2. SEQUESTRATION

Wound inhibitor factors (ex-proteases), microorganisms are locked away.

3. RETENTION

Wound inhibitor factors (ex-proteases), microorganisms are held and immobilised.

4. REMOVAL

Wound inhibitors, microorganisms are removed with the dressing.



Quality of Life Assessment Tool

Measure quality of life, social determinants of health and impact of living with a wound

In the last seven days...	not at all	a little	moderately	quite a lot	very much
1 ...my wound hurt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 ...my wound had a bad smell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. ...there was a disturbing discharge from the wound	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 ...the wound has affected my sleep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 ...the treatment of the wound has been a burden to me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Patient Priorities

Useful questions to ask the patient:

- Priorities for dressing selection?
- Goals for healing & improving quality of life?
- Lifestyle issues?
- Concerns?
- Queries about how the dressing will work?

Patient-Centred

- Clearly communicate ownership, responsibilities and expectations
- Use uncomplicated language
- Assess both intrinsic and extrinsic factors
- Provide patient/caregiver education.

► Scan the QR code to see a full Quality of Life Assessment Tool



Wound Balance

- Identify patient priorities
- Shift focus from management to intention of healing
- Eliminate ritualistic practices
- Treatment based on patient needs, not most familiar products
- Identify and act upon 'reg flag' signs of chronicity quickly.

Patient Care

- Reassess clinical/social factors often
- Clinician continuity
- Timely action
- Provide patient-centric care
- Use optimistic language
- Promote patient-centred communication.

Addressing Challenges

- ✓ Schedule for complexity
- ✓ Manage time for complex patients
- ✓ Support patient-centred care
- ✓ Upskill knowledge of evidence-based wound care
- ✓ Promote communication between multidisciplinary teams
- ✓ Take photos when possible.

FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE FOR PATIENTS

Treating complex wounds is all about balance. Research shows superabsorbent dressings with polyacrylate polymers (SAPs) are better than foams at balancing the wound microclimate¹.

Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border is a soft, silicone, superabsorbent polymer dressing which absorbs and sequesters excessive wound inhibitors, such as MMPs and bacteria², helping to prevent maceration² and improve quality of life.



Balance microclimate

- › Maintains moist microclimate
- › Highly breathable
- › Manages exudate better than comparable foam dressings.



Reduce inhibitors to wound healing

- › Binds and retains bacteria
- › Binds and retains MMPs more effectively than comparable foam dressings.



Protect the wound

- › Silicone adhesive balances adhesiveness and atraumatic removal
- › Soft padding effect
- › Barrier to virus and bacteria.



Size	Product code	Pack size	PIP code	NHSSC code
10 x 10cm	413910	10	4137071	EJA254
12.5 x 12.5cm	413920	10	4137055	EJA255
17.5 x 17.5cm	413930	10	4137063	EJA256
15 x 25cm	413940	10	4137048	EJA257
20 x 25cm	413950	10	4137030	EJA258

References

1. Wounds International (2023) Wound Balance: Achieving wound healing with confidence. Wounds International, London
2. Barrett S, Rippon M, Rogers AA (2020) Treatment of 52 patients with a self-adhesive siliconised superabsorbent dressing: a multicentre observational study. *J Wound Care*29(6): 340-49

RECOMMENDATIONS

Wound balance encompasses balancing the wound in terms of physiological factors, plus patient care balance and clinical practice balance. The recommendations listed below will enable clinicians to focus on healing and optimise patient quality of life in daily practice.

WOUND BALANCE

- Regulation of biomarkers
— e.g. MMPs (using dressings containing SAP)
- Manage exudate
- Normalise and maintain healing trajectory
- Early intervention.

PATIENT CARE BALANCE

- Patient-centred assessment and diagnosis
- Support patient's ability to comply
- Use Quality of Life questionnaire.

CLINICAL PRACTICE BALANCE

- Clinical treatment continuity
- Address wound balance challenges (see clinical tools and guidance)
- Balance time in daily practice.

For more information and to read the document in full visit linkforwoundhealing.info or scan the QR code.



Helps. Cares. Protects.

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