

CATEGORY: SILICONE FOAM DRESSING

CUTIMED® SILTEC

MAKING THE CASE

ABOUT CUTIMED SILTEC

Cutimed Siltec (BSN medical) is a range of silicone-coated foam dressings that are designed to be used on wounds with low to high exudate, including pressure ulcers, venous leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, arterial ulcers, skin grafts, surgical wounds and traumatic wounds (e.g. skin tears), as a primary or a secondary dressing (Figure 1).

Cutimed Siltec is available in a range of silicone tack variants to suit different patient groups and clinical applications (Table 1).

IS IT JUST ANOTHER ADVANCED FOAM DRESSING?

There are several advanced foam dressings available; however, there can be substantial differences in the composition of different dressings. True foams contain hydrophilic polyurethane foam, while pseudo-foams contain absorbent materials (e.g. viscous and acrylate fibres or particles of superabsorbent polyacrylate).

Laboratory data suggest considerable differences in the fluid handling capacity of absorbent foam dressings. This is influenced by the dressing's ability to absorb exudate and the rate at which moisture is allowed to evaporate (Thomas, 2010; Atkin et al, 2015).

When tested, Cutimed Siltec B was found to have the greatest fluid handling capacity compared with other bordered products and Cutimed Siltec/Cutimed Siltec^{PLUS} exhibited fluid handling capacity greater than all but one non-bordered product (Atkin et al, 2015). This may have important implications for wear time and risk of skin maceration.

Figure 1: Cutimed Siltec key features

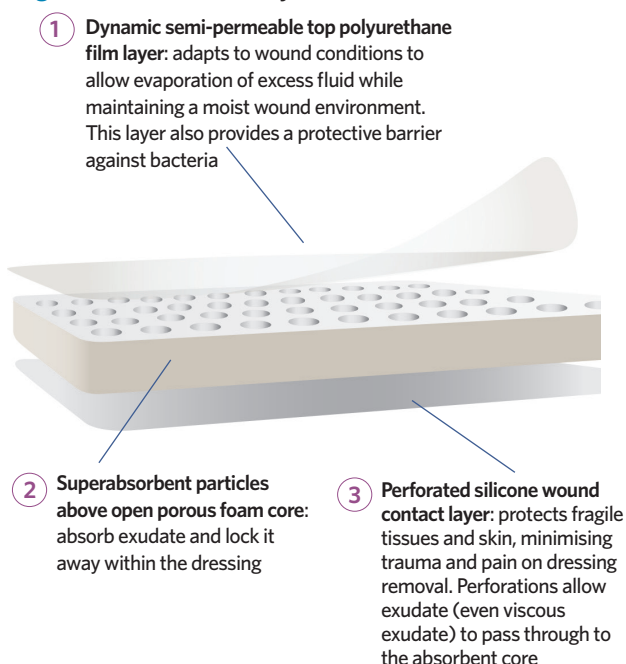


Table 1: Cutimed Siltec range

Cutimed Siltec	Non-bordered with a feather-tack silicone wound contact layer (extra gentle)
Cutimed Siltec ^{PLUS}	Non-bordered with a soft-tack silicone wound contact layer for gentle retention
Cutimed Siltec B	Adherent silicone border
Cutimed Siltec L	Extra thin (3mm) version
Also available as shaped dressings designed for the heel and sacral area	

CLINICAL EVIDENCE FOR CUTIMED SILTEC

A recent evaluation in a large NHS Foundation Trust explored the use of Cutimed Siltec in 150 ward-based patients with acute and chronic wounds over 4 weeks (Bateman, 2015). All patients had an exuding wound and were involved in the decision to use Cutimed Siltec from the outset. The results demonstrated:

- Improvement in wound exudate levels at week 4 compared to baseline:
 - 3% to 22% with no exudate
 - 21% to 1% with high exudate
 - 52% to 21% with moderate exudate
 - 21% to 56% with low exudate
- Protection of surrounding tissues and no incidence of periwound skin maceration
- Excellent containment of exudate with no leakage
- Reduction of pain score, with 100% of patients pain-free at the second dressing change (week 1)
- Reduced dressing change frequency
- 100% of patients wished to continue with Cutimed Siltec.

To encourage self-care and a positive patient experience, all patients were provided with a simple, yet informative, education leaflet. This leaflet followed the patient from consent to discharge, facilitating a consistent exchange of information surrounding the product and ensuring the patient, carer and clinician were fully informed throughout the care journey.

COST OF CUTIMED SILTEC

Cutimed Siltec is available in a wide range of sizes. The costs below are for purchase of Cutimed Siltec in the community or hospital setting.

Size	Pack quantity	Cost (Drug Tariff, July 2015)
5cm x 7.5cm	1 x 5	£1.09
7.5cm x 10cm	1 x 5	£2.09
10cm x 18cm	1 x 5	£4.35
15cm x 25cm	1 x 5	£7.29

Size	Pack quantity	NHS price (August, 2015)
5cm x 6cm	10	£12.11
10cm x 10cm	10	£21.82
10cm x 20cm	10	£41.41
15cm x 15cm	10	£46.89
20cm x 20cm	5	£35.95

Explanation of how to use this guide: This document can be used to make the case for implementing effective prevention and management measures and may be supported by data from your own care setting. As well as economic impact, it is important to know the impact of interventions on patient quality of life and outcomes.

ROLE OF DRESSINGS IN EXUDATE MANAGEMENT

Effectively managing a highly exuding wound is a common clinical challenge. Frequent dressing changes, leakage from dressings onto the skin and clothing, associated malodour and pain can be distressing for the patient and negatively impact on quality of life (Stephen-Haynes and Timmons, 2009).

While absorbency is often considered to be the primary factor for dressing selection, moisture vapour permeability is important in determining a dressing's fluid handling capacity. Dressings that become heavy and wet when they absorb large quantities of fluid can be uncomfortable to wear. Those that have a good permeability can react to the wound conditions, providing improved exudate management with the potential to increase wear times and decrease the risk of maceration (Atkin et al, 2015). Selection should also take into account patient preferences (e.g. maintain lifestyle, promote comfort and reduce pain) to ensure that their own priorities are met (Wounds UK, 2013).

CLINICAL BENEFITS OF USING CUTIMED SILTEC

The ability of a dressing to manage exudate and prevent maceration during normal use is a major factor in determining its clinical acceptability (Atkin et al, 2015). In a recent evaluation, assessments in 150 patients using Cutimed Siltec demonstrated a positive reduction in exudate levels, representing progress along the wound healing continuum. All patients were recruited with some degree of periwound maceration, which had fully resolved by week 2, with no further incidences of maceration over the 4-week evaluation period (Bateman, 2015).

Q WHAT BENEFITS HAVE YOU SEEN WHEN USING CUTIMED SILTEC IN YOUR CLINICAL SETTING?

If you were to explain to a colleague why you have chosen Cutimed Siltec, what would you give as the main benefits?

- ✓ Quick and easy to apply — available in bordered and non-adhesive varieties
- ✓ Highly conformable and protects the wound
- ✓ Easy to remove from fragile skin, leaves no residue and is atraumatic to new tissue
- ✓ Retains exudate, even under compression
- ✓ Protects surrounding skin, with minimal risk of maceration
- ✓ Choice of wound contact silicone tack available
- ✓ Product appearance and tactility appeals to patients and carers
- ✓ Increased wear time (cost-effective)
- ✓ Educational leaflet available promoting consistency of care for the patient and clinician

References

- Atkin L, Stephenson J, Bateman S (2015) Foam dressings: a review of the literature and evaluation of fluid-handling capacity of four leading foam dressings. *Wounds UK* 11(1): 75-81
- Bateman S (2015) 150 patient experiences with a soft silicone foam dressing. *Br J Nurs* 24; Suppl 12: S16-23
- National Prescribing Centre (NPC) (2010) MeReC Bulletin: Evidence based prescribing of advanced wound dressings for chronic wounds in primary care. NPC, London
- Stephen-Haynes J, Timmons J (2009) Cutimed® Siltec: a foam dressing range with super absorbers and a silicone wound contact layer. *Wounds UK* 5(2): 69-72
- Thomas S (2010) Laboratory findings on the exudate-handling capabilities of cavity foam and foam-film. *J Wound Care* 19(5): 192-99
- Wounds UK (2013) *Best Practice Statement: Effective exudate management*. Wounds UK. Available from: <http://bit.ly/1LAr4Qs>

ECONOMICAL BENEFITS OF USING CUTIMED SILTEC

Wound dressings account for about £116 million of prescribing costs in primary care in England each year. Foam dressings are one of the most commonly prescribed wound management products, accounting for 19% of the total annual spend (NPC, 2010). Selection of a cost-effective dressing has important implications for budget.

A dressing's capacity to manage fluid will impact on wear time and the number of nursing contacts required. Cutimed Siltec has been shown to have good fluid-handling capabilities when tested with other bordered (Figure 2) and non-bordered products (Atkin et al, 2015).

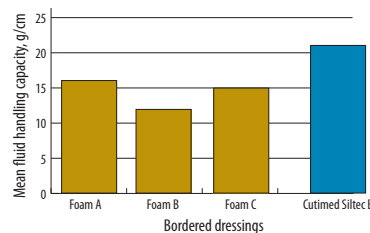


Figure 2: Cutimed Siltec B was shown to have significantly greater fluid-handling capacity than other bordered products tested (Atkin et al, 2015)

Cutimed Siltec can be worn for up to 7 days, with the potential to provide financial savings to the NHS without compromising the quality of patient and wound care (Atkin et al, 2015). This was demonstrated by a reduction in dressing change frequency during a recent 150-patient evaluation (Bateman, 2015) (Figure 3).

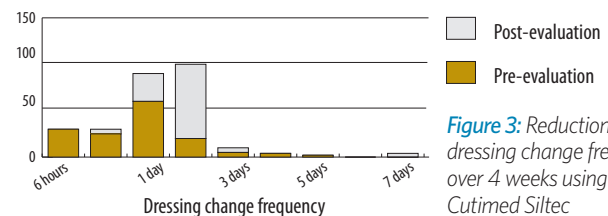


Figure 3: Reduction in dressing change frequency over 4 weeks using Cutimed Siltec

PATIENT BENEFITS OF USING CUTIMED SILTEC

Dressings that manage exudate effectively — without becoming heavy and wet — and incorporate an atraumatic wound contact layer, can provide important patient benefits, including reduction in pain, odour and prevention of leakage, with a reduction in periwound maceration (Atkin et al, 2015). Patients have reported that:

- 'It feels soft and strong'
- 'It didn't curl up or leak like the other one'
- 'I could flex my hand and it stayed in place'
- 'It didn't stick to the scabby areas'.

The education leaflet supplied with the dressing was also found to be beneficial by the patients, and they could refer to it when discussing their own treatment priorities. These may be different to those of the clinician (Bateman, 2015). This allowed them to be involved in decisions about their wound management from the outset. Promoting self-care and a positive patient experience is key to good wound management; patient involvement in decisions about their treatment options and their benefits is vital to ensure consistency and concordance. Within the 150-patient cohort group (Bateman, 2015), 88% of all patients were able to take an active part in their dressing regimen, with 4% being supported by carers. The remainder of the cohort (8%) required full assistance from clinicians due to their mental health status.