

EXUDATE MANAGEMENT: A COMMON CLINICAL CHALLENGE

CLINICAL CHALLENGES

Wound exudate is produced as a normal part of the healing process to prevent the wound from drying out and to supply tissues with essential nutrients and growth factors for healing. Wounds that produce high levels of exudate can become overhydrated, which may lead to:

- Maceration of periwound skin
- Malodour
- Increased pain
- Enlargement of the wound
- Delayed healing
- Local wound infection
- Protein loss/electrolyte imbalance
- Leakage/strikethrough

IMPACT ON PATIENT

- Embarrassment/anxiety
- Social isolation
- Wet dressings
- Frequent dressing changes
- Loss of confidence in treatment
- Reduced quality of life

AIMS OF MANAGEMENT

- Absorb exudate to remove excess moisture from the wound and surrounding skin
- Reduce bacterial count and remove harmful proteases and cytokines through absorption of the exudate into the dressing
- Avoid periwound maceration by protecting the surrounding skin and maintaining a moist, but not saturated wound environment

CHOOSING AN IDEAL WOUND DRESSING

There are numerous dressings with different modes of fluid handling. Ideally, the selected dressing should:

- ✓ Absorb and retain large quantities of exudate, even under compression
- ✓ Be easy to apply and pain-free to remove
- ✓ Create an optimal wound environment to stimulate healing
- ✓ Be conformable and comfortable
- ✓ Avoid exudate-related problems (e.g. maceration)

Source: Wounds UK. Best Practice Statement. Effective exudate management, 2013.

OPTIMISING THE WOUND BED: HYDRATION RESPONSE TECHNOLOGY

Hydration Response Technology (HRT) is a design concept that combines exudate management with wound bed preparation. This technology is used exclusively for the manufacture of Cutimed® Sorbion® dressings.

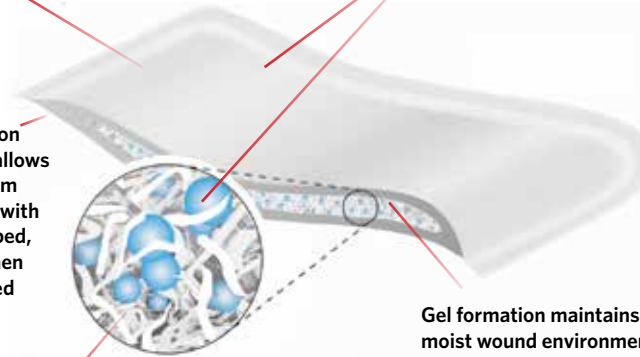
Two components — **mechanically modified cellulose fibres and selected gelling agents** — work together to absorb and retain large quantities of wound exudate, encourage wound bed preparation and protect the periwound skin.

Soft but strong polypropylene outer layer, which is ultrasonically sealed, with no glues, binders or adhesives

Hypoallergenic materials to reduce the risk of skin irritation

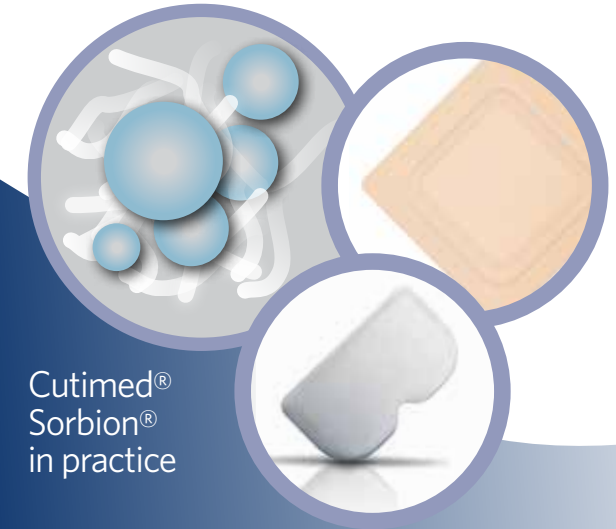
Expansion border allows maximum contact with wound bed, even when saturated

Gel-forming polymers and supporting cellulose fibres form a matrix (with no glues or adhesives) to absorb and retain exudate, keeping harmful proteases and cytokines away from the surface of the wound bed



Gel formation maintains a moist wound environment to encourage autolytic debridement for removal of non-viable tissue from the surface of the wound

EXUDATE MANAGEMENT OPTIMISING THE WOUND BED

















Cutimed®
Sorbion®
in practice

OPTIMISING EXUDATE MANAGEMENT: CUTIMED® SORBION® DRESSINGS

Things to consider when selecting a dressing from the Cutimed® Sorbion® dressing range:

- Level and consistency of exudate
- Size, depth and location of wound
- Signs and symptoms of infection
- Protection against maceration and skin irritation
- Management of odour
- Requirement for debridement (e.g. soft or autolytic)
- Ease of application and removal
- Avoidance of pain and trauma
- Use under compression
- Wear time
- Primary or secondary dressing
- Conformability
- Maintenance of dressing integrity
- Patient comfort
- Sensitivities to latex, silicone, fats
- Cost-effectiveness

DRESSING	Indications	Key features	Exudate level
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet S</p>	<p>Highly absorbent HRT dressing with inner core comprising super-absorbent polymers and cellulose. For acute and chronic wounds, including leg, foot and pressure ulcers, and wounds healing by secondary intention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Highly absorbent dressing core ■ Less bulky — no need to layer up dressings ■ Primary wound contact ■ Autolytic debridement ■ Reduces odour ■ Can be used under compression ■ Can be worn up to 4 days 	
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet EXTRA</p>	<p>Highly absorbent HRT dressing with inner core comprising super-absorbent polymers and cellulose. Ideal where wound bed preparation and longer wear time are required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Even greater absorbency/retention ■ Primary wound contact ■ Autolytic debridement ■ Reduces odour ■ Can be used under compression ■ Can be worn up to 7 days 	
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet XL</p>	<p>A specially-shaped HRT dressing for large, difficult-to-dress wounds located on, e.g. lower abdomen, sacrum, thigh, lower leg, axillary region and thorax</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Extra large pad size for greater absorbency of extensive wounds ■ Autolytic debridement ■ Can be used under compression ■ Can be worn up to 4 days 	
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet Border</p>	<p>Self-adhesive bordered hydroactive dressing for use on wounds including pressure ulcers, dehisced surgical wounds and acute wounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High absorbent capacity and retention ■ Autolytic debridement ■ Quick and easy application ■ Flexible and breathable ■ Fluid repellent ■ Can be worn up to 4 days 	
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet Multi Star</p>	<p>Unique shape for flexible application to sites such as toes, heel, foot, sacrum, axillae, chest, elbow and wound cavities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expandable absorbent dressing core ■ Flexible application ■ Autolytic debridement ■ Can be worn up to 4 days 	
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® Sana Gentle</p>	<p>Combined wound contact layer with absorbent core and three-dimensional structure. Suitable for chronic ulcers, trauma wounds, fungating wounds, fragile skin, epidermolysis bullosa, superficial burns and donor sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prevents adhesion to the wound bed ■ Wound contact layer allows passage of fluid into absorbent core ■ Can be used under compression ■ Atraumatic removal ■ No need for wound contact layer ■ Can be worn for up to 7 days 	
 <p>Cutimed® Sorbion® S Drainage</p>	<p>Absorbent HRT dressing for use with catheters and drainage tubes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High absorbent capacity and retention ■ Slit design (v shape) ensures good fit at the exit point of tubes etc ■ Can be worn for up to 4 days 	
<p>Effective exudate management and optimal wound bed preparation</p> 