

Treatment of a bilateral necrotic leg ulcer with Mesitran

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An 82-year-old female presented with bilateral leg ulcers of unknown origin. The ulcer on the patient's left leg covered a relatively large part of the gaiter area and was irregular in shape measuring 10cmx12cm at its widest points. The wound bed was covered with a mixture of 20% necrotic, 30% slough and 50% granulation tissue (Figure 1). The wound was producing low to moderate amounts of serous exudate. There were no signs of clinical infection, and the wound appeared to be colonised.

The aims of treatment were to autolytically debride the necrotic and sloughy tissue, and to protect the delicate granulation tissue. Mesitran hydrogel sheet dressings were applied to the ulcer and held in place with 3 layers of compression comprising Tubifast/Softban/Tubifast, applied toe to knee. A Repose Foot Protector (Frontier Therapeutics, Blackwood) was applied to help relieve pressure on the heel. The peri-wound skin on the leg was dry and flaky so 50/50 cream was applied at every dressing change to maintain moisture levels. Dressings were changed every 2–3 days, and were described as comfortable by the patient

On day 10 of treatment the wound had reduced in size and there was less necrotic and sloughy tissue present (Figure 2). On day 22 of treatment with the Mesitran dressing the necrosis and slough had been debrided and the wound was granulating and contracting (Figure 3). By day 27, some areas of the wound had completely healed, while others had granulation tissue present and were being covered with epithelial tissue (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 1. The wound contained necrotic, sloughy and granulation tissue before treatment with Mesitran.



Figure 2. After 10 days, the wound had reduced in size.



Figure 3. After 22 days of treatment, the wound had further reduced in size, and epithelial growth had occurred from the margins.



Figure 4. After 27 days of treatment, the wound continued to heal, with epithelial tissue covering the wound bed.



Figure 5. The wound shown from above the gaiter area on day 27. Again there is almost complete coverage with epithelial tissue.

The wound dimensions had reduced to approximately 6cmx5cm in total. PolyMem QuadraFoam was then used until the wound was completely healed.

This case demonstrates an excellent healing response, with the Mesitran

dressing promoting the removal of slough, while encouraging the formation of granulation tissue and providing protection of this delicate growth. By maintaining a moist wound environment epithelial tissue growth was encouraged. **WUK**