

Can Use of Hypochlorous Acid (Vashe®) Change Your Dressing Selection in Treating Chronic Wounds?

Gregory A Bohn, MD, FACS, ABPM/UHM¹,
Sue Champion, RN, CWOCN¹,
Kimberly Eldridge, RNCNOR, RNFA, CFCN, WCC, BSN²

Message:

Vashe is proven to be a powerful remover of germs from wounds, via the mechanical action of cleansing wounds with this hypochlorous acid containing agent. Its use, which is cost effective, can replace the use of silver in wound dressings thus eliminating the cost and cytotoxicity associated with silver.

Methods:

The effectiveness of hypochlorous acid (as Vashe) in wound cleansing and its effect on wound bioburden was evaluated by qualitative culture at presentation and at week 2 post Vashe treatment. Eighteen wounds (VLUs and DFUs) were studied by microbial culturing (both aerobes and anaerobes) on samples of deep wound tissue before and after Vashe treatment. For Vashe treatment, 10 minutes of cleansing with Vashe (10 cc in a syringe) was done, followed by an application of dressings (collagen) saturated with Vashe. Dressing changes were done as needed and wounds were cleansed with Vashe during dressing changes over the two-week period.

Results:

Vashe worked well to control bioburden in this series of wounds. As many as 17 of 18 wounds were found on culture to be pathogen negative at 2 weeks. The researchers concluded that hypochlorous acid was effective in clearing bioburden in chronic wounds.

Conclusion:

Vashe application in this series of wounds effectively eliminated wound pathogens. Pathogens were detected after 2 weeks in only one of 18 patients treated regularly with Vashe. Compared to other commonly used wound solutions used to control bioburden, Vashe represents a cost savings, for example compared to vancomycin solution and triple antibiotic solution, and additionally without concerns of emergence of antibiotic resistance. In addition, these antibiotic solutions are often augmented with amphotericin B for activity against fungus, thus impacting cost and complicating treatment logistics issues. When used with collagen dressings to treat VLU's and DFU's Vashe can lead to savings compared to other commonly used silver collagen dressings. Specifically, each use of Hypochlorous acid costs only \$0.34 on average. Vashe is non cytotoxic, as opposed to silver present in antimicrobial dressings. Added only pennies to the cost of collagen dressings, this low cost yet effective product, Vashe, helps mechanically clean the microbes in the wound bed.

| Solution | Volume | Cost |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Vancomycin 1% solution Topical | 250cc | \$20.73 |
| Triple antibiotic solution | 200cc | \$19.55 |
| Amphotericin B 0.005% | 200cc | \$10.30 |
| Hypochlorous Acid | 250cc | \$16.75 |

| Dressing | Cost |
|---------------------|---------|
| Silver Alginate 4x4 | \$11.00 |
| Silver Collagen 2x2 | \$22.00 |
| Silver Collagen 4x4 | \$22.00 |
| Collagen 2x3 | \$16.75 |



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URGO Medical North America, LLC
3801 Hulen Street, Suite 251,
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Tel. 855-888-8273
www.urgomedical.us

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Author's Affiliation:

¹West Shore Medical Center

²Rush Foundation Hospital Center for Wound Care

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