

Evaluation of a New Silver Foam Dressing in Patients with Critically Colonized Venous Leg Ulcers

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Message:

This study was to evaluate the safety and efficacy of an absorbent dressing impregnated with silver salts (UrgoCell® Silver) in the management of leg ulcers with clinical signs of critical colonization.

Methods:

45 patients with VLU of 5-40 cm² size, 3-24 months duration, an ABI of >7.0, and an ability to wear compression garments were enrolled in a Phase III clinical trial. Weekly, the wounds were checked for 5 clinical indicators of critical colonization (pain, erythema, edema, malodor, heavy exudate). The ulcers were also traced for area size. The UrgoCell Silver Dressings were changed prn and evaluated over a 4 week period.

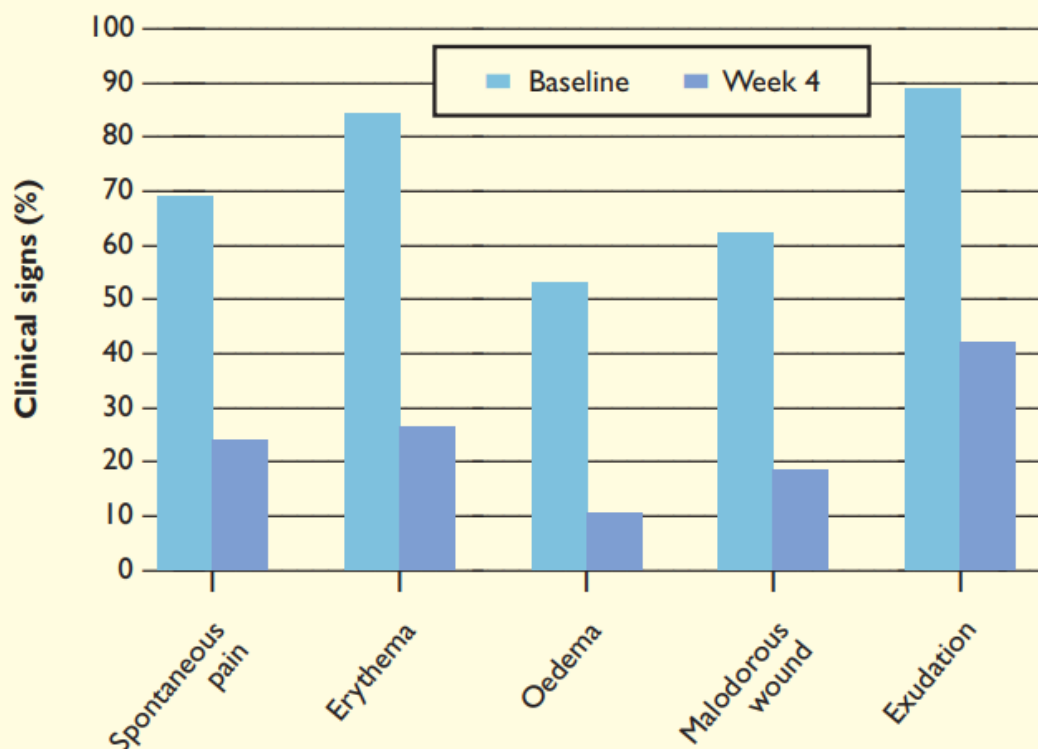
Results:

At trial onset, all patients had 3-5 clinical indicators of critical colonization. By week four, 36% of patients had no clinical indicators remaining and 22% had 3-4. No patients had 5 clinical indicators after 4 weeks of treatment. The total number of clinical indicators significantly decreased after 4 weeks of treatment in the whole patient population. The ulcer surface area decreased in 35% of the patients and the wounds were judged as improved or healed in 78% of the patients.

Conclusions:

UrgoCell Silver had a favorable influence on wound prognosis. It was well tolerated and well accepted as treatment for patients with clinical signs of a significant bacterial load in their ulcers.

Fig 1. Percentage reduction in ulcer surface area over the four weeks of treatment



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