

USE OF A SILVER IMPREGNATED WOUND CLEANSER ON AN INFECTED ABDOMINAL WOUND

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Introduction

A patient was admitted to the hospital on the third day following surgery with separation of the incision, purulent drainage, foul odor and tenderness. The Nurse Practitioner specializing in wound care was consulted. On initial examination it was decided that NPWT would be utilized to promote granulation tissue. Since a device would not be available until the next day, the NP irrigated the open surgical site with a recently acquired wound cleanser containing silver and moist dressing was then applied.

Cultures of the wound were positive for Psuedomonas, E Coli, and MRSA. Given the condition of the infected abdominal wound when the patient was admitted it was surprising to see mainly red clean tissue in approximately 24 hours. There was no longer a foul odor and no redness was noted to the periwound skin.

A decision was made to continue irrigating the wound with the silver impregnated wound cleanser prior to each NPWT dressing change. IV antibiotics were ordered and the patient remained hospitalized for two weeks. A PICC line was inserted to facilitate administration of daily IV antibiotics.

On discharge NPWT continued and the patient came to the out-patient clinic three times a week for dressing changes. By one month after the start of wound care the incision line was so small that NPWT was discontinued. Treatment continued and appropriate advanced wound dressings were employed. The wound steadily continued to fill in and approximately 5 months after wound separation there was complete closure.



Day 1 of Out-Patient Wound Care 2 weeks S/P Surgery
Silver Impregnated Wound Cleanser applied
NPWT dressing changed
Measures 8cm X 8.5 cm X 8.5 cm



Day 19 of OP Wound Care
Measures 80 cm X 2.5 cm X 3 cm



Day 31
Wound bed has filled in
NPWT is discontinued
Measures 2 cm X 3.5 cm



Day 64
Incision line healing well
Measures 2 cm X 2.5 cm



Day 89
3 small separations remaining



Day 134
Closure of Infected Abdominal Wound

Conclusion

- Wounds require cleansing prior to application of a new dressing.
- The use of silver dressings in a variety of forms has been shown to assist in the healing of infected wounds.
- A product combining antimicrobial and irrigation needs is easy to use and appeared to enhance the healing process.
- The patient never had an elevated temperature, became ill or septic, or had to limit her activities during treatment of the infected wound.
- The patient was able to continue her normal lifestyle throughout treatment, including activities of daily living and playing bingo 3 to 5 times per week in order to socialize with others and enjoy life.
- The silver impregnated wound cleanser facilitated treatment and closure of a life-threatening, infected, and very large surgical site.

References

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Suggested Reading

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