

9 THINGS

an Ideal Wound Dressing or Matrix Does

1

Creates a moist environment

Inadequate moisture in the wound bed results in poor wound healing. Proteolytic and fibrinolytic enzymes involved in autolytic debridement of the wound required for cellular growth and migration become inactive in a dry environment.

2

Removes excess exudate

On the flip side, if the skin is too wet, the wound is at risk for developing maceration and/or infections.

3

Prevents desiccation

The formation of eschar further slows the ability of regenerative cells such as keratinocytes to migrate from the wound periphery into the wound center, hindering re-epithelialization.

4

Promotes autolytic debridement

Debridement promotes the wound healing process in a variety of ways. Not only does dead skin inhibit the development of healthy new tissue, but it makes the affected area more susceptible to infection.

5

Allows gaseous exchange

Many of the vital processes of wound healing are oxygen-dependent. Hypoxic wounds deposit collagen poorly and become infected easily. Epithelialization is a parallel process of resurfacing the wound that also proceeds optimally at high oxygen levels.

6

Impermeable to microorganisms

Infection generally prevents healthy tissue regeneration. For instance, some infections can extend the length of the inflammatory phase, and that can halt the subsequent stages of wound healing.

7

Nontoxic to beneficial host cells

There are several accepted approaches to combat microbes in wounds, including silver, PHMB, and chlorhexidine. While highly effective against bacteria, these antimicrobials can be toxic to the host tissue you are trying to regenerate. Smart use of these therapies is essential!

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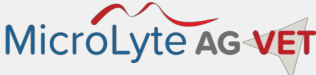
Cost-effective

Increasingly, cost is becoming a dominant factor in healthcare decision making. When selecting a wound care product, consider that products with premium pricing which shorten treatment times may be more cost-effective than cheaper, less clinically effective products.

9

Non-traumatic application and removal

Minimization of pain can be an overlooked aspect in wound product selection. Dressing removal can be highly traumatic, especially in young patients or those with very large wounds.

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