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CLINICAL

IV-related phlebitis, complications and length of hospital stay: 1

Adherence and compliance in the management of asthma: 1

**Interventions for confusion and dementia
5: changing cultures**

PRODUCT FOCUS

The Aquacath hydrophilic coated single-use urinary catheter

Hydrocoll: a 'new breed' of hydrocolloid wound dressing

HEALTHCARE RISK MANAGEMENT

Medical interventions during pregnancy and childbirth

CASTLEDINE COLUMN

Nursing says 'yes' to higher level practice

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The fortnightly journal promoting excellence in nursing

Focus on Mental Health Nursing



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1302

Hydrocoll: a ‘new breed’ of hydrocolloid wound dressing

Clare Williams

More than 35 years have passed since Winter (1962) first demonstrated the advantages of a moist environment, constant wound temperature and infrequent dressing changes for wound healing.

Hydrocolloid dressings were first used in wound management in the 1960s to prevent excoriation of the skin surrounding stomas, and were then developed into a dressing for leg ulcers and other chronic wounds (Williams, 1994). They fulfil many of the requirements of the optimum dressing (Table 1) are now well established in wound management. They are a popular and effective treatment option for healthcare professionals in both the community and hospital settings (Williams, 1996).

Hydrocolloids can be used on wounds at many different stages of healing, for a variety of purposes ranging from rehydration of necrotic tissue and slough to encouraging granulation and protection of epithelial tissue (Williams, 1996).

Table 1. Features of the optimum dressing

Maintains high humidity at the wound/dressing interface
Removes excess exudate
Allows gaseous exchange
Provides thermal insulation
Is impermeable to bacteria
Is free of particles and toxic wound contaminants
Allows removal without causing trauma to the wound
Adapted from Turner (1982)

Clare Williams is Nursing Officer/Tissue Viability, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, North Wales

Abstract

Hydrocolloid dressings were first used in wound management in the 1960s. They provide the optimal environment for wound healing, i.e. a moist environment, constant wound temperature and infrequent dressing changes, and can be used on wounds in various stages of healing. As a result they are a popular treatment option for health professionals in both the community and hospital settings. This article describes the properties of Hydrocoll — a new and exciting range of hydrocolloid dressings from Paul Hartmann Ltd — which was launched in the UK in January 1998 and became available on the Drug Tariff in June 1998.



Figure 1. Hydrocoll, the new hydrocolloid dressing range from Paul Hartmann Ltd.

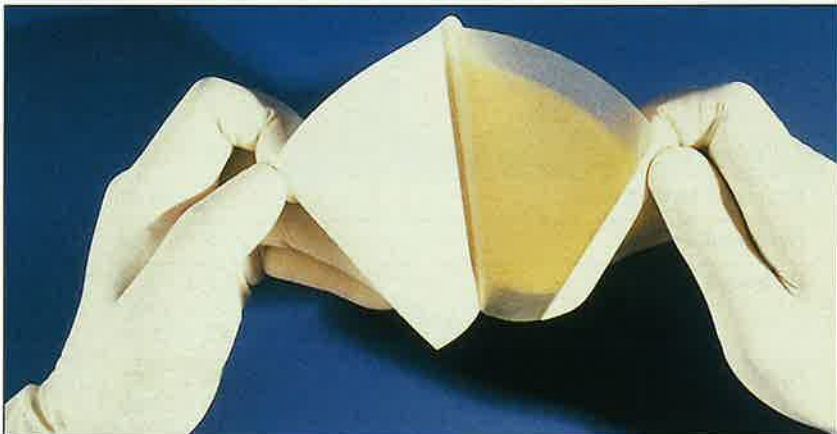


Figure 2. Hydrocoll consists of a film backing and a hydrocolloid containing hydrophilic substances.

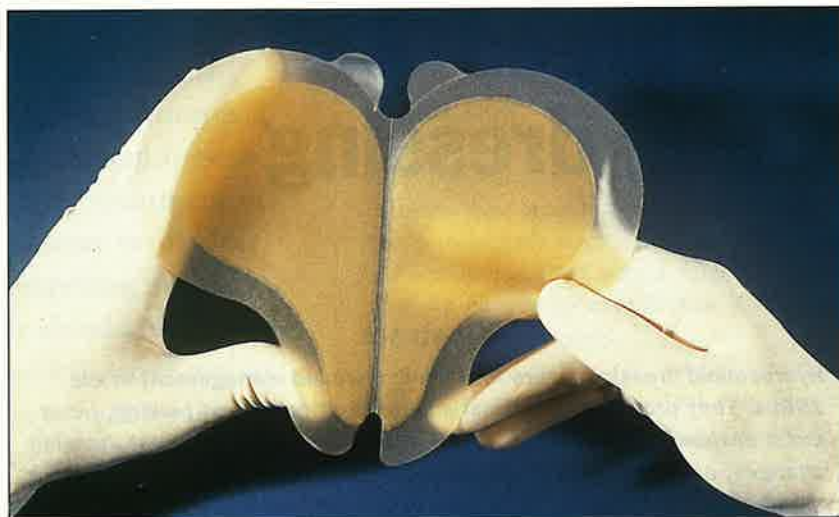


Figure 3. The film backing is highly permeable to moisture which allows surplus fluid to evaporate, preventing maceration and enabling the dressing to be left in place for longer periods.



Figure 4. Hydrocoll is very thin and translucent, enabling continuous observation.

Table 2. Hydrocoll range of products and sizes

Hydrocoll*	5 x 5 cm
	7.5 x 7.5 cm
	10 x 10 cm
	15 x 15 cm
Hydrocoll Heel/Elbow*	6 x 14 cm
Hydrocoll Sacral*	15 x 18 cm
Hydrocoll Thin	7.5 x 7.5 cm
	10 x 10 cm
	15 x 15 cm
Hydrocoll Basic	10 x 10 cm
	15 x 20 cm
	20 x 20 cm

*With bevelled edge; NB: Every presentation is available on the Drug Tariff

Traditionally, hydrocolloids consist of a combination of gel-forming agents, usually gelatin, pectin and variations of carboxymethylcellulose (Williams, 1998). But the traditional hydrocolloid has now moved on and is continually being developed. The Hydrocoll range is an example of a 'new breed' of hydrocolloid dressing.

HYDROCOLL

Hydrocoll, a new hydrocolloid dressing from Paul Hartmann Ltd (Figure 1), was first developed in 1994 and is known as Sureskin in the USA. It was launched in January 1998 in the UK and became available on the Drug Tariff in every presentation in June 1998.

Hydrocoll is a hydrocolloid-based dressing that consists of a film backing and a hydrocolloid containing hydrophilic substances — mainly sodium carboxymethylcellulose and pectin (Figure 2). Hydrocoll absorbs exudate to form a soft moist gel. It provides an ideal, moist environment for healing to take place.

The film backing is highly permeable to moisture. This allows surplus fluid to evaporate, preventing maceration and enabling the dressing to be left in place for longer periods (Figure 3). As a result, Hydrocoll is cost-effective in terms of both dressing costs and nurse time.

Hydrocoll dressings are very thin and translucent, enabling continuous observation of the wound (Figure 4). Some of the dressings have a bevelled edge which provides a smooth transition from dressing to skin, thereby maximizing adhesion and preventing rucking.

Hydrocoll is presented in a variety of exiting and unique shapes and sizes (Table 2). Each presentation is ready to use and simple to fit, without the need to cut to size. The smallest size (5 x 5 cm) will be particularly useful for smaller wounds in the community and hospital settings.

Hydrocoll Sacral has been specifically designed for this difficult-to-dress area. It has a unique hinge to enable it to conform well and stay in place for the maximum length of time.

Hydrocoll Heel/Elbow dressing has been designed to be comfortable and allow free movement.

The Hydrocoll range of dressings is designed for moderately exuding wounds.

Why should you prefer our Hydrocolloid dressings?

HARTMANN



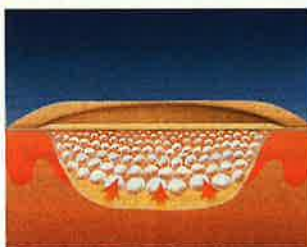
Hydrocoll sacral

Specifically designed for the sacral region this dressing ensures a unique conformability and overall skin contact

The economy of hydrocolloids

Hydrocoll is a hydrocolloid based dressing that absorbs exudate and forms a soft moist gel.

By providing a moist wound healing environment the development of granulation tissue and migration of epidermal cells is supported. Hydrocoll's high permeability to moisture allows surplus fluid to evaporate, and the dressing can remain on the wound for longer periods. This makes it particularly cost-effective



Bevelled Edges

A smooth transition from dressing to skin maintains adhesion and prevents rucking



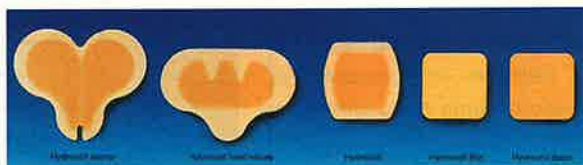
Hydrocoll heel/elbow

Shaped for these indications, Hydrocoll is conformable and allows movement

Simply because you want the fitting solution for every indication.

The fitting alternative for every indication.

Hydrocoll offers a variety of shapes and sizes of ready-to-use wound dressings that simply fit without cutting to size. They are designed for maximum wearing time, less frequent dressing changes and optimum comfort for your patient.



Available on prescription!

HARTMANN



Paul Hartmann
Unit P2 Parklands,
Heywood Distribution Park, Pilsworth Road,
Heywood, Lancs OL10 2TT,
United Kingdom Solventum Corp. EX1027

Solventum Corp. v. Wound Healing Techs., LLC; No IPR2025-01042



Figure 5. Hydrocoll is particularly suitable for the management of chronic, slow healing wounds.

The dressings are particularly suitable for the management of chronic, slow-healing wounds, e.g. leg ulcers and pressure sores (Figure 5). Hydrocoll Thin is most useful in the epithelializing phase of wound healing.

The top layer of the dressing acts as a barrier to bacteria and protects the wound from contamination and penetration of moisture. Patients can therefore shower with the dressing in place.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Steenfos et al (1997) compared the use of Hydrocoll, Granuflex Improved Formulation (another hydrocolloid) and Jelonet Gauze on split-skin donor sites.

Hydrocoll was found to be as effective as Granuflex in the 10 patients in the study. In addition, healing took place in approximately 8.5 days with both hydrocolloids,

compared with 12 days with Jelonet Gauze. The hydrocolloid dressings were noted to produce 33% faster healing times. Histological biopsies of the wound confirmed the clinical results. The authors also noted that the removal of both Granuflex and Hydrocoll was pain free.

CONCLUSION

Hydrocolloid dressings are well established in wound management. They require infrequent dressing changes and do not cause trauma to the surrounding skin (Thomas, 1990). They also appear to promote granulation tissue growth (Cherry and Ryan, 1985).

Hydrocoll is a new and exciting hydrocolloid range which has been shown, in a small study, to be as effective as the best-known hydrocolloid on the market today. **BJN**

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KEY POINTS

- Hydrocolloids provide the ideal environment for wound healing, i.e. moist environment, constant wound temperature and infrequent dressing changes.
- Hydrocoll is a 'new breed' of hydrocolloid which has been used successfully for many years in wound care in the USA.
- Hydrocoll comes in a range of new and exciting shapes and sizes to fit difficult-to-dress areas such as the sacrum, heel and elbow.
- Hydrocoll has been shown to be as effective as the most well-known hydrocolloid on the market, being a very cost-effective treatment option.