COST-ANALYSIS OF ACTIVE \textit{LEPTOSPERMUM} HONEY CALCIUM ALGINATE DRESSING VERSUS SILVER HYDROFIBER DRESSING FOR CHRONIC LEG ULCER TREATMENT IN AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION

- Currently the health systems in developed countries have the challenge of rationing financial resources – increasingly scarce – more efficiently in order to obtain greater benefits for a larger number of people. Given the aging population and the prevalence of chronic diseases, the treatment of chronic leg ulcers is thought as a great problem to be evaluated.
- There are several products on the market bringing the promise to perform a complete wound healing. Among the products used for chronic ulcers in the lower limbs, there are honey, hydrogel and silver dressings.\(^1\)
- Silver Hydrofiber dressing\(^2\) (AG) is a moisture-retaining dressing consisting of non-woven sodium carboxymethylcellulose fibers which forms a gel on contact with wound fluid. This gel promotes a moist environment that retains wound exudate by vertical absorption. The combination of hydrofiber plus ionic silver produces a dressing that is highly absorbent, has favorable gelling characteristics and broad spectrum antimicrobial activity.\(^4\)
- Therefore, it is up to the health professionals to assess other dimensions of the best treatments available to their patients, requiring the economic approach through cost-benefit analysis.

RESULTS

- 237,057 cases of leg ulcers were projected. The model estimated costs for the inpatient period assuming one dressing change every 3 days for ALH and AG, considering in both cases similar size.
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OBJECTIVE

To develop a cost-analysis of ALH CALCIUM ALGINATE versus AG dressings for chronic leg ulcers in adults, from the perspective of the Australian market.

METHODS

- Data from the literature was used to define the rates of annual number of chronic leg ulcers in adults.\(^6,7\)
- The model assumed that patients are discharged at the time their wounds heal. No critically ill patients in ICUs were included. Only patients above 20 years old were included.
- Average length of stay (LOS) and mean time to dressing changes were used to calculate the treatment costs in each scenario.
- Unit costs were obtained from Australian official price lists. Only direct medical costs were included (medical supplies). Discount rates were not applied due to the short time horizon (1 year).

CONCLUSION

ALH dressing demonstrates cost-effectiveness when compared to AG dressings. These results reinforce the need for evidence-based decision making and rational resource allocation, in addition to further studies including quality-adjusted life year data.

\(^*\)MEDIHONEY® Active Leptospermum Honey Dressings, Derma Sciences, Inc., Princeton, NJ   /   **Aquacel® Ag, Convatec, Skillman, NJ

\(^1\)COOPER RA, GRAY D. Is Manuka honey a credible alternative to silver in wound care? WOUNDS UK. 2012:8:4; …

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\(^5\)References: 1. COOPER RA, GRAY D. Is Manuka honey a credible alternative to silver in wound care? WOUNDS UK. 2012:8:4; …
