Treatment of Venous Insufficiency Complicated by Stasis Dermatitis: Less is More Approach Using a Silver Moisture Management Wrap

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Introduction
Chronic venous insufficiency is responsible for 70% of chronic wounds of the lower extremities. (1) Due to the chronic nature of venous insufficiency, skin injury from excessive weeping and drainage result in pruritus and excoriation. The traditional treatment for venous insufficiency ulcers is the use of compression wraps. However, compression wraps introduce other challenges such as managing exudate, protecting the periwound, and proper skin moisturizing. (2, 3) Many of the products used to treat these conditions can cause adverse reactions. The more products used, the more difficult it becomes to establish which products are helping or hurting. (4) Stasis dermatitis is common in venous ulcers, and the elderly population is at an increased risk because rashes, sensitivities, and contact dermatitis are more common among this population. (5)

Methods
In the following cases, Silver Moisture Management wrap 4”x 48” (AFM**) was applied directly to the lower leg. No topical ointments or creams were used. AFM was covered with an absorbent layer and secured with gauze. In each case, the AFM was left in place while the outer dressing was changed once or twice a week either at the clinic or by home health care. Case 1 and 3 had light compression of cotton and cohesive bandage. Case 2 had no compression due to severe arterial disease.

Conclusions
In conclusion, Silver Moisture Management wrap (AFM) is an effective treatment for venous stasis ulcers complicated by stasis dermatitis. The moisture wicking action of the AFM dressing decreases constant irritation from wound exudate and minimizes periwound excoriation. Unanticipated benefits include decreased pain, decreased nursing time, and reduction in cost related to supplies and nursing time.

References

**TRITEC™ Silver (Milliken Healthcare Products, LLC; Spartanburg, SC)