

# Wear Time and Ease of Use of a Transparent Gel Dressing for the Prevention of Sacral Pressure Injury

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## INTRODUCTION

- Foam and gel dressings are often used to protect against pressure injuries (PIs) however, they must be removed to evaluate the condition of the skin.<sup>1</sup>
- Repetitive removal of adhesive foam dressings can weaken the skin integrity thereby adding to the risk of PIs or risk of medical adhesive related skin injury (MARS).<sup>2</sup>
- Compliance with patient repositioning can also help to protect the skin against PIs however, it is not always reliable.<sup>3</sup>

## PURPOSE

To evaluate the wear time and ease of use of a silicone faced transparent gel dressing (TGD)\* compared to a conventional foam dressing in patients with a Braden Score of  $\leq 15$ .

## METHODS

- Forty-seven patients aged 18-105 years at moderate to severe risk for PIs were evaluated over 65 days.
- Eligibility for the study included patients with a Braden Score of  $\leq 15$ .
- For eligible patients, the skin was cleansed per standard of care, dried, and the TGD was applied.
- The skin was assessed daily for up to 1-7 days for the occurrence of PI.
- At the conclusion of the study, the nursing staff were asked to complete a survey for each patient.
- Four representative cases are shown at various days
- Case 1. 63-year-old female patient (Day 4)
- Case 2. 60-year-old male patient (Day 1 and 5)
- Case 3. 76-year-old male patient (Day 1, 3 and 4)

\*Optiview™, Medline Industries LP, Northfield, IL

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## REPRESENTATIVE CASE STUDIES



**Case 1. 63-year-old female patient in prone position with no pressure injuries with TGD on knees A) and B) chest after 4 days of application.**



**Case 2. 60-year-old male patient with TGD on sacral region at A) Day 1 and B) Day 5**



**Case 3. A 76-year-old male patient presented with an unstageable sacral pressure injury A-arrow) with TGD applied on Day 1. A new TGD was applied on the sacral region at B) Day 3 with follow-up on C) Day 4 with healing underneath the dressing over six days.**

## RESULTS

- The average TGD change time for the 47 patients was 4.5 days compared to <24 hours for patients using conventional foam dressings.
- Nursing staff were not able to check for PIs under conventional foam dressings without removing but, were able to check for PIs using the TGD with removing.
- The TGD also effectively adhered to the skin of four prone patients, six ambulatory patients, and five obese patients with multiple skin folds.
- Stage 1 PIs resolved from non-blanchable to blanchable in two patients after they received TGD.
- No peeling was observed due to showering or bathing.
- A survey of 95 out of 100 nurses stated that the TGD did not peel off and stayed longer than conventional foam dressings.
- None of the TGD patients in the study developed PIs and healing of pre-existing PIs was observed.

## CONCLUSIONS

- In these 47 patients, the transparency of the TGD and extended wear time of 4.5 days allowed nursing staff to assess for PIs without daily removal of the dressing.
- The extended wear time of 4.5 days also spared the patients dressing changes and possible risk of MARS.
- The nursing staff developed an appreciation of the TGD that promoted staff compliance in skin assessment and documentation that resulted in a complete culture shift in PI prevention.

## REFERENCES

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