The silver-containing ointment dressing
Atrauman Ag in the treatment of chronic wounds – an observation study on 624 patients

H. Smola1, 2, P. Zoellner2, H. Kapp2

1 Department of Dermatology, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany. 2 PAUL HARTMANN AG, Heidenheim, Germany

Introduction
Depending on the patient’s immune status, contamination of a wound with micro-organisms can lead to local or systemic infection (1). In daily practice, especially infections with methicillin-resistant strains of Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) present a logistic and therapeutic challenge (2). The clinical performance of the silver-containing ointment dressing Atrauman Ag (PAUL HARTMANN AG, Heidenheim, Germany) in the treatment of infected and infection-prone wounds was investigated in a large observation study.

Material and methods
In the prospective, multicentre clinical observation study, 222 medical centres treated 624 patients (mean age 70 years, ±18 years) – mostly suffering from chronic wounds such as venous ulcers – with Atrauman Ag. The wound status was evaluated at the beginning and at end of the study.

Results
Patients were treated with Atrauman Ag for a mean of 23 days (±15 days) with three consecutive dressing changes. In the course of the study, the percentage of wounds covered with slough decreased (Figure 1). Wound exudation also diminished, and granulation and epithelial tissue increased (Figure 2 & 3). Furthermore, during Atrauman Ag treatment reported wound pain and condition of peri-lesional skin improved. The number of infected wounds decreased from 60% to 20% at the end of the study. More than 90% of each physicians and patients rated the tolerability and effectiveness of the Atrauman Ag wound treatment as good or very good.

Discussion
The development of silver-containing wound dressings has significantly improved the management of critically and infected wounds (3). The silver ions responsible for the bacterial action, however, are toxic for the cells in the wound area (4). Silver release from Atrauman Ag achieves strong antimicrobial activity, while avoiding the cytotoxic effects of excessive amounts of silver. Clinical studies and laboratory tests have already demonstrated the benefits of low toxicity and potent antimicrobial action – including micro-organisms such as methicillin-resistant strains of Staphylococcus aureus (5). Therefore we conclude that Atrauman Ag is an effective wound dressing for the management of infected and infection-prone wounds including recalcitrant ulcers.

References

This study has been made possible by a research grant from PAUL HARTMANN AG, Heidenheim/Germany