

Background/Objective

Excessive bioburden can result in inflammatory and proliferative phase stagnation and compromise of normal wound healing physiology. Bacterial proliferation, biofilm production, critical colonization and the development of resistant organisms can lead to infection, wound deterioration and devastating tissue loss. Therapies to control or eliminate wound bioburden are critical to achieving and maintaining wound healing trajectories.

Hypochlorous acid (HOCl) is an oxidant produced by the body's immune system to kill invading microorganisms. A novel, FDA cleared product VASHE™ Wound Cleanser* is being introduced for cleansing, irrigating, moistening, and debriding acute and chronic wounds. VASHE™ has been shown to be highly bactericidal against many pathogens, but does not affect human cells. The effectiveness of VASHE™ in chronic venous wounds has been reported¹.

Methods

Since May 2007, 142 patients have been treated with VASHE™ Wound Cleanser at the Centers for Comprehensive Wound Care and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. A regimen of VASHE™ soak followed by a vigorous VASHE™ scrub was utilized. Wound healing trajectories were analyzed in these patients prior to the initiation of VASHE™ Wound Cleanser and then recalculated 6 weeks afterward.



Pre VASHE Therapy



VASHE Therapy: 15 minute soak followed by gentle scrub



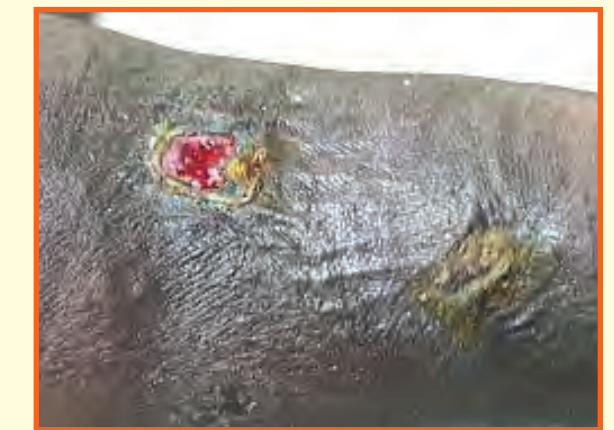
Post VASHE Therapy

Results/Case Report

44 year old male with a history of venous insufficiency wounds to bilateral medial ankles, re-occurring despite aggressive compression, topical antibiotics and local wound care. Wounds present for 7-8 months prior to treatment with VASHE.



Appearance after 7 months of standard topical therapy and compression. 2.6cm x 2cm x 0.1cm and 2.3cm x 1.0cm x 0.1cm



Appearance after 3 weeks of VASHE therapy. 1.8cm x 1.5 m x 0.1cm and 0.7cm x 0.4cm x 0.1cm

Conclusions

A marked increase in the slope of the curve (decreased wound volume) was found with the use of VASHE™ Wound Cleanser. No adverse effects were seen. Based upon our positive clinical experience with this novel wound cleanser, we conclude that VASHE™ Wound Cleanser is a safe and effective product that should be incorporated into the management of chronic wounds especially those compromised by bioburden.

*VASHE™ Wound Cleanser, PuriCore, Malvern, PA

1. Selkon, J.B., et. al (2006). Evaluation of hypochlorous acid washes in the treatment of chronic venous leg ulcers. Journal of Wound Care. Volume 15.