

The Use of *Leptospermum* Honey Dressings on Challenging Patients in an Indigent Wound Clinic

Purpose

Collectively, chronic wounds cost the nation \$20 billion to \$25 billion a year. Finding the correct advanced wound care product that contains antimicrobial properties as well as provides an optimal healing environment poses hurdles for practitioners. The use of active *Leptospermum* honey (ALH) supplies both the desired antimicrobial result with this favorable healing environment. The following case reports chronicle ALH dressing usage in an indigent clinic on patients with the challenging co-morbidities of HIV and highly exudating venous ulcers. These wounds affected the patients' quality of life and ability to work. Challenges to wound care providers in treating the indigent population include homelessness, inaccessibility to supplies, knowledge deficits in the etiology of wounds, and non-compliance with treatment.

Methods

The treatment plan included ALH calcium alginate which controlled infection, exudates, pain, and odor. Secondary dressings used were compression wraps, foam, or gauze. Patients with HIV were encouraged to comply with their prescribed medication regime. Patients with venous ulcers were encouraged to elevate the affected extremities. Pictures and measurements were taken at each clinic visit.

Results

The patients included in this study rapidly experienced decreased wound size, exudate, pain, and odor. The wounds were completely closed or in the process of re-epithelialization at discharge.

Conclusion

Outcomes of ALH usage in these cases were successful closure of wounds that restored quality of life to the patients and cost savings with decreased healing time.