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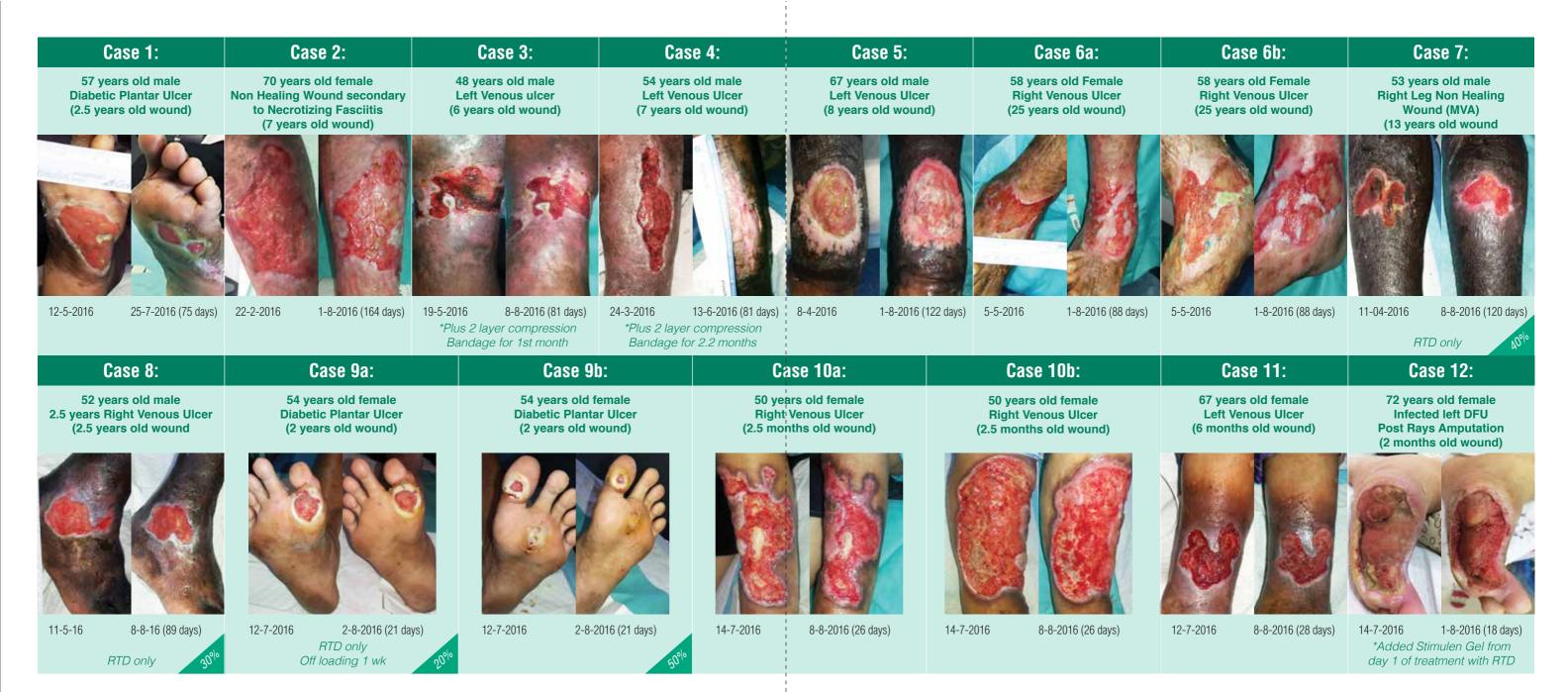
Tel: 03-7931 9981 Fax: 03-7931 9983Website: www.soza.com.my

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Presented at:

NORTH BORNEO WOUND CONFERENCE 2016



Abstract:

Chronic complex non healing wound represents a big challenge to wound care professionals.

A study was conducted using Retro Tech Dressing (RTD^R) a novel broad spectrum antimicrobial foam dressing on 8 cases of venous ulcers, 3 cases of diabetic foot ulcers and 1 case of non-healing ulcer. These wound duration ranges from 2 months to 25 years and have been treated with multi modalities in various hospitals in the country.

RTD^R is a proprietary highly absorbent broad spectrum antimicrobial foam with Methylene Blue, Gentian Violet and Silver Ion integrated into the polymer matrix. RTD^R provides quick closing, moist, advanced oxygenation (singlet oxygen), capillary-suction-therapy and biofilm reducing dressing with bio-burden sequestration.

The study is ongoing and to date we have seen significantly marked improvement in all cases studied with varying degree of wound closure.

Introduction:

Chronic complex wounds are becoming a huge problem as patients develop infection and biofilms in the wounds. Biofilms are found in 60% of chronic wounds. Wound bed preparation looks at the bacterial burden, debridement and exudate management and the Principles of Best Practice from the World Union of Wound Healing Societies covers infection. Therefore, bacterial bioburden has to be managed. In this case series, a new Retro Tech Dressing (RTD) is used to get the infection under control so that the wound can heal normally. This dressing is a proprietary highly absorbent broad spectrum antimicrobial foam with Methylene Blue, Gentian Violet and Silver Ion integrated into the polymer matrix.

Methodology:

12 patients were selected for their wound chronicity ranging from 2 months to 25 years. All 8 cases of venous ulcers, 3 cases of diabetic foot ulcers and 1 case of non-healing ulcer were seen twice weekly at the wound care centre where their wounds were washed, debrided and RTD Dressing applied covering the wound bed then secured with gauze, gamgee and bandage. Only 2 patients were put on 2 layer compression bandage; Case 3 for the 1st month then stop and Case 4 for the 1st 2.2 months

then stop. 1 case, Case 9 was on off-loading device for 1 week the stop whereas another case, Case 12 patient was started with both RTD and Collagen with glycerine gel right from beginning of treatment.

Collagen with glycerine Lotion was applied on periwound areas for all 12 cases.

Result:

All 12 cases exhibited signs of wound healing after the bacterial burden was managed with the RTD dressing. The wound area started to reduce in terms of the length and width in all the cases. The percentage of wound reduction was from 20 to 100 % according to the type and severity of the case. Some of the cases are highlighted below:

Case 2: A 70 years old female patient with complex non healing wound secondary to necrotizing fasciitis. Patient history dates back 7 years ago with multi treatment modalities employed in various hospitals. After 164 days with RTD Dressing the wound edges have shrunked in size plus healthy granulation and epithelializtion seen throughout the wound.

Case 6a / b: A 54 years old female patient suffering from right foot venous ulcer for the past 25 years. After 88 days there are clear visible signs of granulation and epithelialization over the entire wound.

Case 10a / b: A 50 years old female patient with venous ulcer enveloping the right shin for 2.5 months prior to starting RTD Dressing. In 26 days marked improvement was seen with twice weekly RTD Dressing.

Conclusion:

In all 12 cases infection was well controlled and bioburden was managed leading to healthy tissue granulation and wound closure in 1 patient. The combination of methylene blue, gentian violet and silver plus singlet oxygen (derived from methylene blue) exerts a synergystic and powerful microbial killing for both fungi and bacteria. The presence of surfactant in RTD Dressing helps in inflammation reduction and the foam with a good capillary suction helps in exudate management.

The high number of venous ulcers presented in this case series responded well to RTD Dressings.