Cost benefits of using soft-foam dressings* in acute and chronic wounds

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Aim
The aim of this product evaluation was to evaluate the influence of a soft-foam dressing* on the number of dressing changes required for patients with acute and chronic wounds.

Method
Twelve wound patients were changed from their current foam dressing to the soft-foam dressing* and evaluated for 3 weeks. The patients were included over a 14-week period.

The following was recorded:
• Type and duration of the wound
• Previous foam dressing used
• Previous number of dressing changes required per week
• Number of dressing changes required per week, during the first week and the third week
• Wound appearance

Results
• Seven wounds were chronic with a duration of more than two months
• Six of the seven chronic wounds did not heal during the evaluation

Conclusions
This small evaluation demonstrated that the test dressing has both clinical benefits and cost benefits. Clinically, it managed wound exudate well. Cost savings were also realised across all wounds. An average weekly saving per patient of £72.71 was demonstrated in chronic wounds.

References
1. Curtis, Unit Cost of Health and Social Care 2011
* Biatain®, Coloplast A/S