

MAGGOTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF TRAUMA INJURIES OR IN TRAUMA SURGERY

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Century old experiences with maggot infestation of wounds have suggested:

1. Maggots on war wounds may prevent infection and death
2. Maggots are effective in the treatment of orthopedic infections.

Interestingly both indications, namely prevention and therapy of wound infection have been more or less reduced to a mere debridement of chronic wounds. Anyhow latest research has shown that maggot secretions possess distinct immunomodulatory properties and are able to break down biofilms of *S. aureus* and *P. aeruginosa* spec.

These findings offer an explanation for the efficiency of MDT in septic wounds in spite of the difficulty to provide evidence of a bactericidal effect of clinical importance.

So far a genuine breakthrough of MDT seems to be hampered – at least In Germany – by:

1. The classification of MDT as a finished medicinal product. Tedious and expensive certification procedures for maggot products look like a never ending story and prevent its reimbursement.
2. The yuk or disgust factor withholding doctors and nurses from applying maggots to wounds.
3. Difficult logistics. Nevertheless, MDT is simple, safe and efficient – given that indication and application are correct. Some case studies will be discussed in this presentation.