

PRESS RELEASE

13 May 2014 – Madrid, Spain

Clinical trial shows dressings have an important role to play in preventing hospital acquired pressure ulcers

Hospital acquired pressure ulcers are a major challenge for medical practitioners. If identified early, they can often be treated swiftly but if left unnoticed they can be extremely painful and debilitating for patients. If allowed to develop, they can also have a significant financial impact on healthcare trusts and operators, with the cost of treatment ranging from EUR 24 to EUR 6,820 per patient¹.

Pressure ulcers may develop as a result of many contributing factors, including the mechanical effects of pressure, shear, friction and / or moisture on the skin. Within emergency departments (ED) and intensive care units (ICU), where patients are already suffering from other acute or emergency medical conditions, these factors are more prevalent than in any other part of the hospital environment.

Traditional pressure ulcer prevention protocols, including using special support surfaces, patient rotation, improved nutrition and, of course, regular skin inspections may still result in a pressure ulcer prevalence of some 13%².

A major study³, following 440 trauma and critically ill patients, conducted by Professor Nick Santamaria in Melbourne, Australia, has demonstrated the important role that silicone foam dressings such as Mölnlycke Health Care's Mepilex[®] Border Sacrum and Mepilex Heel[®] play in preventing the development of pressure ulcers in an ED and ICU environment.

A similar study has now also been conducted in Spain, by clinicians at the Hospital Universitario Lucas Augusti⁴, further demonstrating the important role of these dressings.

The study followed 92 patients from the geriatrics, palliative care and onco-haematology departments who were deemed to be at risk of developing pressure ulcers (between 6 and 12 on the Braden Scale).

Mepilex Border Sacrum dressings were applied to patients in the intervention group (46 patients), in addition to standard prevention procedures. The control group patients (46 patients) were subjected to standard pressure ulcer prevention procedures.

Of the patients in the intervention group only two developed pressure ulcers, with 20 patients developing them in the control group.

Juan Carlos Alvarez Vazquez, Head of Chronic Wounds at the Lucas Augusti University Hospital in Lugo, Spain, commented on the results of the study:

“Providing evidence about prevention measures is a priority for wound-healing professionals. It is therefore important to highlight what this study finds: that the use of dressings significantly reduces the incidence rates of injuries to the sacrum due to pressure, friction, shear and humidity. They bring a new, effective way of preventing such injuries.”

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About Mölnlycke Health Care

Mölnlycke Health Care is a world leading manufacturer of wound care and single-use surgical products and a service provider to the healthcare sector.

Headquartered in Göteborg, Sweden, Mölnlycke Health Care's history dates back to 1849, when it was founded as a textile manufacturer. The Company became independent in 1997 and since 2007 is majority-owned by Investor AB. The Company has over 7,400 employees across over 30 countries.

The Wound Care Division offers gentle and effective wound care solutions. Featured products include those with the unique and patented Safetac[®] technology that reduce unnecessary suffering during a patient's wound healing journey. Safetac[®] is available exclusively on Mepitel[®], Mepilex[®] and other selected dressings.

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References

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