

Hands-on Case Reports (1/2005)

Infected decubitus ulcer over the greater trochanter



Diagnoses:

- Infected decubitus ulcer with large abscess on the lateral side of the left thigh over the greater trochanter
- Anemia (Hb 10.7 g%)
- Known organic brain psychosyndrome
- Dementia

History and findings on admission:

This report concerns an 89-year-old female patient referred to us with an infected decubitus ulcer. The patient was admitted to our outpatient department as an emergency, having had an open sore over the left greater trochanter for about one week. The patient is dependent on nursing care and is looked after at home by her son and daughter-in-law. Several pressure sores are already documented in the patient's medical records.

The examination revealed an open sore measuring about 8 x 5 cm on the lateral side of the left thigh. Under this a fluctuating abscess was observed, and the entire region was severely reddened. The abscess described above was located below the surface of the decubitus ulcer.

Treatment:

- Opening of abscess
- Abscess excision
- Open wound management with Cutisorb® Sorbact® (BSN medical)

Histological findings:

Decubitus ulcer
No malignancy

Clinical laboratory tests on admission:

Leukocytes 8,000
Hemoglobin 10.7 g %
Platelets 300,000

Clinical course:

The inpatient course was uncomplicated. Daily change of dressing with Cutisorb® Sorbact® ribbon gauze. After five days, use of Cutisorb® Sorbact® round swab. Clean wound bed throughout the entire treatment, with some initial granulation visible. Already during the surgical procedure, following excision of the abscess, the wound had been dressed with a Cutisorb® Sorbact® ribbon gauze.

The bacteriological smear sample was found to contain no bacteria and no cells in the direct specimen test (Gram stain).

Staphylococcus aureus was detected in the culture test.

The bacteriological smear from the Cutisorb® Sorbact® round swab showed detritus in the direct specimen test (Gram stain), and Staphylococcus aureus in the culture test.

Procedure:

After discharging the patient from hospital we recommended continued open wound management, close clinical supervision and laboratory monitoring as well as use of Cutisorb® Sorbact® dressing pads to prevent secondary infection.

Summary:

With Cutisorb® Sorbact®, we had at our disposal for the first time an active agent-free, bacteria eliminating material which due to its hydrophobic properties is capable of firmly binding detritus and microorganisms. In contrast to the widely used cotton-based tamponades, the material did not adhere to the wound and removed painlessly and atraumatically when moist.

The frequency of dressing change depended on the amount of wound exudate and was performed daily in the first few days and, after the signs of infection had subsided, every two to three days.



Figure 1
Pressure sore on admission before abscess incision and excision.

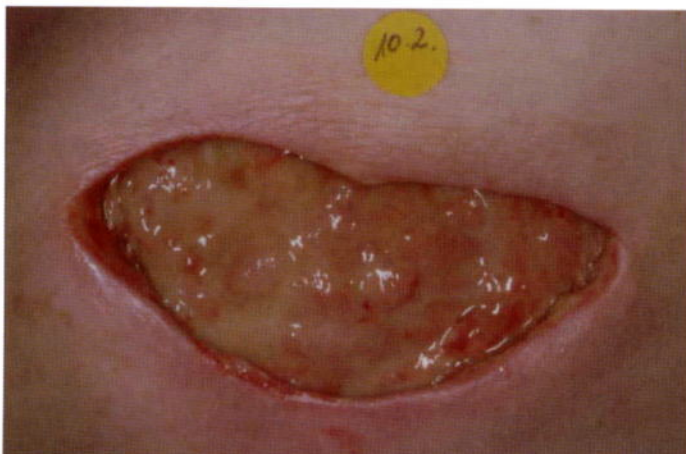


Figure 2
Wound status on day 5 of treatment immediately after removing the Sorbact tamponade. The wound margins are no longer reddened. Viscous exudate is still present in the wound bed.

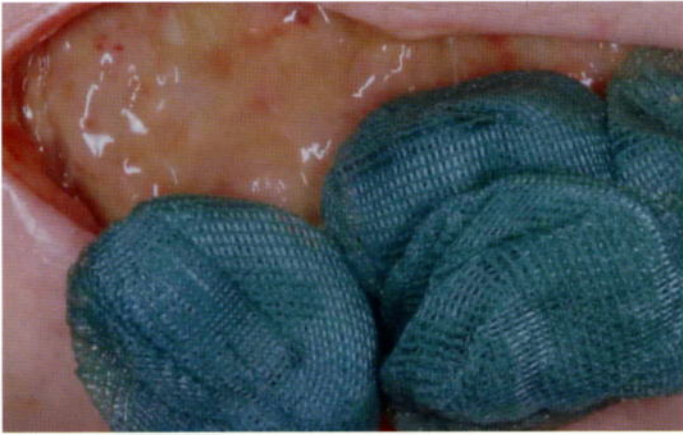


Figure 3
Several Cutisorb® Sorbact® round swabs were placed in the wound to enlarge the bacteria absorption surface and covered with an absorbent compress.

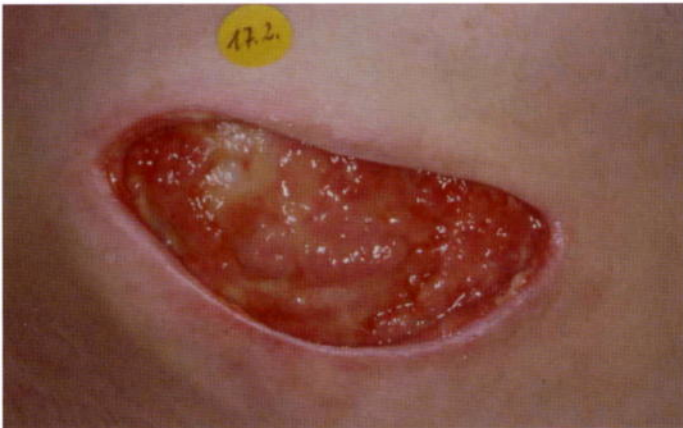


Figure 4
On day 11 of treatment almost infection-free, already granulating wound conditions were observed. The treatment described was continued.

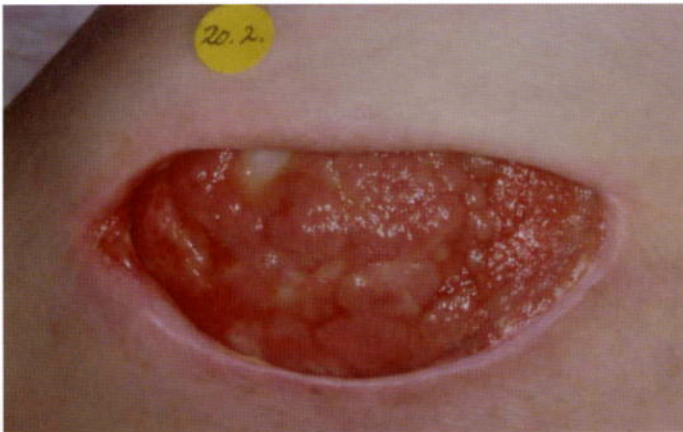


Figure 5
Granulation continuing up to skin level.

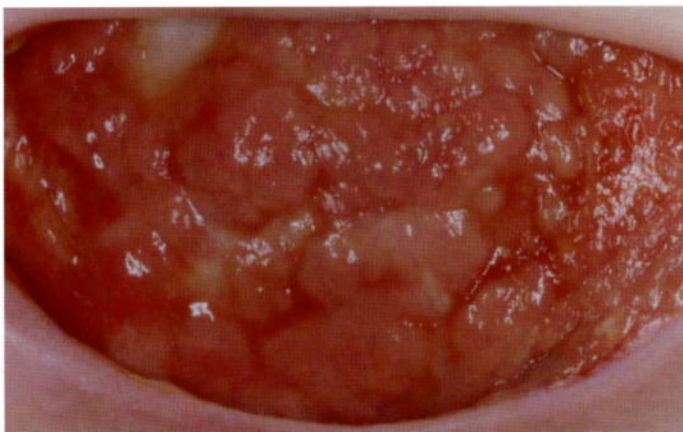


Figure 6
Close-up of the bulging granulation tissue.