

# CASE STUDY: LEG ULCER CAUSED BY TRAUMA RESULTING IN HAEMATOMA FORMATION



## BACKGROUND

86 year old widow living alone but with support (shopping and socialising) from her daughter. She suffers from osteoarthritis (knees, hips, ankles). On 12th November 2015 she suffered trauma to her right shin that resulted in haematoma formation. On 8th December GP unsuccessfully attempted to drain the haematoma. A hydrocolloid dressing was applied but then changed to a sheet hydrogel for debridement. 3rd January 2016 Doppler assessment indicated suitability for compression, hydrogel dressings continued. Wound was static with thick slough and wound bed bled easily when cleaned.

## METHOD

A community based patient who had a leg ulcer where healing had stalled was selected. Selection criteria included; the wound should be free of infection and the patient should not be taking steroids. The patients received compression therapy and didn't experienced pain or adverse event. A thin layer of Woulgan was applied at each visit.

## CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

On 11th February Woulgan Gel was applied. Compression bandages changed twice weekly and after one week of Woulgan, bandages were changed weekly.

Week 1 - marked improvement. Week 7 - almost healed (small scab remained). Week 9 - wound healed.



Figure 1: Week 1



Figure 2: Week 4



Figure 3: Week 9

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Chronic wounds are a huge burden on the NHS purse and present a problem for patients, including pain, low self esteem and often, social isolation. The patient had become housebound because of the injuries, and was dependant on the district nurses.
- 8 tubes of Woulgan were used at a total cost £160. This patient had already had 9 weeks of treatment twice weekly dressings prior to the trial.
- Woulgan Gel has proved to be an effective, bioactive dressing where healing was stalled.
- Woulgan Gel debrides and accelerates healing, by modulating macrophage function and thereby promoting wound contraction and healing. If the wound contact dressing had remained unchanged, the wound would not have healed in the quick timescale and may have remained in an inflammatory phase for weeks.