CASE STUDY:
5 MONTHS OLD POST-OPERATIVE WOUND ON THE BIG TOE HEALED AFTER 8.5 WEEKS

BACKGROUND

A 68-year-old male patient suffered a trauma in the 1960s which led to amputation of the hallux ending with a very painful wound. The patient had bypass surgery March 2018 due to restricted blood circulation. The surgery helped with the pain but did not improve the healing process. A month later osteomyelitis was detected, and the patient was started on antibiotics and had surgery in the middle of May. 1st of June 2018 the stitches was removed but left an open surgical wound.

CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

At first the wound was treated with Aquacel AG+ before switching to Manuka Honey, both improved the wound slightly and some granulation tissue was visible in the wound bed. However, the healing stalled again and did not progress. The wound bed was accessible for Woulgan, there were no malodor and the wound were moderately exuding, making it suitable for Woulgan treatment. It was decided to initiate Woulgan treatment to re-start the healing, at that time the wound was 5 months old.

Treatment - Woulgan was applied at every dressing change every third day and covered with Mepilex boarder.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The wound showed great improvement at each visit after Woulgan was initiated, particularly the first 4 weeks of treatment. The patient did not experience any pain with the use of Woulgan. After 8 weeks of treatment the wound was completely healed.

Figure 1: Wound at presentation

Figure 2: Wound almost healed

Wound size reduction development

Actual costs of above case

Optimal case

Accumulated costs for standard care: £1064*
Accumulated costs for Woulgan: £320*
Wound-free weeks for patient: 16

Costs are based on NHS standards