

A Real Alternative to Surgery

Pre-tibia haematoma

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Introduction

This case study shows the use of bagged larvae on a patient with a large pre-tibia haematoma on her right leg.

History

The patient, a 78-year-old lady, with no relevant medical history, presented at The Furness General Hospital Accident & Emergency, with a large pre-tibia haematoma. The injury to her right leg had been sustained at home whilst falling up the top stair and skidding along the landing.

Despite trying to manage the wound at home for a week she presented again at the hospital and was admitted to the ward. The wound was initially managed conservatively, a regime of bed rest with leg slightly elevated on pillows being used. The patient did not want surgery.

Treatment

After 13 days two large applications of bagged larvae were prescribed to debride the haematoma. Saline soaks were applied 24 hours before the application of the bagged larvae to hydrate the surface of the haematoma.

On day 1, the bagged larvae were applied as per guidelines, the surrounding viable tissue being protected using zinc barrier cream. The dressings were covered with a non-adherent dressing and absorbent pads and secured with a light bandage.

Not all of the haematoma was covered by the first application so it was decided that there would be a repeat prescription for the bagged larvae as a second application.

On day 5, it could be seen that the larvae therapy had debrided the lower (distal) half of the haematoma; this area was then protected using simple tulle gauze and the

bagged larvae were only applied to the upper (proximal) area.

Day 11, the dressings were removed, both patient and carers were very pleased with results.

The next review was on day 14 – the consultant prescribed a smaller, mid-sized application of bagged larvae to be applied to the remaining small area of the wound.

Outcome

On day 18 the bagged larvae have been removed. By now the haematoma had been totally debrided and the wound bed was granulating. The wound was dressed with tulle gauze, light padding and figure-of-eight support bandage.

By day 21 we were happy to report that the leg was well on its way to resolution after undergoing dramatic wound bed preparation by the bagged larvae.



01: Before treatment



02: Day 1



03: Day 6



04: Day 21



05: After treatment