Correlazione Tessuto-Essudato

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- ✓ Reflects the metabolic condition of the wound
- ✓ Containes soluble factors which may influence cellular functions
- ✓ Useful in identifying factors involved in skin repair or its failure

Chronic Wound Exudate

Pathophysiology

Collection and Assessment

Composition

Consequences

Wound State Biomarker

Chronic Wound Exudate



Wound Exudate Pathophysiology





Role of inflammation in exudate production (Scallan et al, 2010)

DEFINITIONS

- Exudate
- Fluid that is secreted or leaked from the blood vessels in the adjoining tissue as a result of injury or inflammation
- >> Protein and cells
- >> High amount of LDH

- Transudate
- Ultrafiltered fluid secreted or leaked from the circulatory system due to underlying medical conditions:

1 Increased capillary hydrostatic pressure, e.g. due to venous stasis

2 Decreased capillary oncotic pressure, e.g. due to low serum protein from malnutrition

<< Protein and cells



Understanding that wound drainage can comprise exudate and transudate can help clinicians determine reasons for any increase in wound drainage and so identify and implement appropriate management

Chronic Wound Exudate

Collection and Assessment







Wound Exudate Collection and Assessment

Published exudate production rates		
Wound type	Method of exudate production measurement	Rate of exudate production (g/cm²/24 hours)
Leg ulcers	Dressing weight (Dealey et al, 2006)	0.17–0.21
	Dressing weight (Thomas et al, 1996)	0.43–0.63
Various	Negative pressure wound therapy canister collection (Dealey et al, 2006)	1.3*
Granulating wounds	Vapour pressure gradient (evaporative water loss) (Lamke et al, 1977)	0.51
Skin donor sites	Vapour pressure gradient (evaporative water loss) (Lamke et al, 1977)	0.42
Partial-thickness burns	Evaporimeter (Ferguson et al, 1991)	0.42-0.86
	Vapour pressure gradient (evaporative water loss) (Lamke et al, 1977)	0.43
Full-thickness burns	Vapour pressure gradient (evaporative water loss) (Lamke et al, 1977)	0.34

Exudate collection device







- Exudate collection by using negative pressure therapy without interface filler
- Timing : 2 hours for each patient

Wound Exudate Assessement







Wound Exudate Assessment: TYPES

Type of exudate	Consistency & Colour	Medical implication
Serous exudate	Watery, thin, translucent, clear, straw-colored	Clear fluid from the wound or the Normal wound exudate
Fibrinous exudate	Thin, presence of strands of fibrin, cloudy	Normal wound healing exudate
Serosanguinous exudate	Clear, pink-colored, thin, watery	Normal wound exudate
Sanguineous exudate	Red-colored, thin, watery	Exudate from a wounded, bleeding blood vessel
Seropurulent	Yellow, tan, opaque, cloudy, thick	Infectious wound
Purulent exudate or pus exudate	Thick, Green, Grey, or yellow drainage from the wound	Bacterial infection of the wound with heavy inflammation
Hemopurulent or bloody exudate	Red, dark, blood-stained, thick, highly viscous	Inflammatory cells with a bacterial infection
Hemorrhagic	Thick red-colored	Indicative of fragile blood capillaries/ trauma/ Infection

Wound Exudate Assessment: AMOUNT

Clinical methods of assessment of wound exudate production				
Method	Details			
Wound Exudate Score (Falanga, 2000)*	Wound exudate score	Extent of control	Exudate amount	
	1	Full	None/minimal	No absorptive dressings required. If clinically, feasible dressing could stay on for up to a week
	2	Partial	Moderate amount	Dressing changes required every 2–3 days
	3	Uncontrolled	Very exudative wound	Absorptive dressing changes required at least daily

Exudate amount element of Bates- Jensen Wound Assessment Tool (Bates- Jensen, 2001)	Exudate amount	Indicators
	None	Wound tissues dry
	Scant	Wound tissues moist; no measurable exudate
	Small	Wound tissues wet; moisture evenly distributed in wound; drainage involves ≤25% dressing
	Moderate	Wound tissues saturated; drainage may or may not be evenly distributed in wound; drainage involves >25% to ≤75% dressing
	Large	Wound tissues bathed in fluid; drainage freely expressed; may or may not be evenly distributed in wound; drainage involves >75% of dressing

Clinical methods of assessment of wound exudate production

Method	Details	
	Status	Indicators
Dressing: exudate interaction (WUWHS, 2007)	Dry	Wound bed is dry; there is no visible moisture and the primary dressing is unmarked; dressing may be adherent to wound
	Moist	Small amounts of fluid are visible when the dressing is removed; the primary dressing may be lightly marked; dressing change frequency is appropriate for dressing type
	Wet	Small amounts of fluid are visible when the dressing is removed; the primary dressing is extensively marked, but strikethrough is not occurring; dressing change frequency is appropriate for dressing type
	Saturated	Primary dressing is wet and strikethrough is occurring; dressing change is required more frequently than usual for the dressing type; periwound skin may be macerated
	Leaking	Dressings are saturated and exudate is escaping from primary and secondary dressings onto clothes or beyond; dressing change is required much more frequently than usual for dressing type

Others (Gray, 2005; Fletcher, 2010)	 Low, medium, high None, scant, moderate, high None, low, moderate, high, very high Dry/none; slight (weekly dressing change); moderate (2–3 times weekly dressing change; copious (daily or more frequent changes) +; ++; +++

Assessment of odour		
Odour characteristic	Approaches to assessment	
Strength	 When the odour is noticeable – e.g. on proximity to the patient, before dressing/ device removal, after dressing/device removal and whether the odour remains once the dressing/device has been removed for a short while; an example of this approach has been formalised in the TELER system (Table 9) Absent, faint, moderate or strong (Nix, 2016) Visual analogue scale, e.g. 0 = no smell to 10 = worst smell imaginable (Gethin et al, 2014) 	
Nature	 Malodourous, pungent, foul A smell of ammonia may indicate infection with Proteus species of bacteria (Bates-Jensen et al, 2012) 	
Impact	Psychological and social impact on the patient and carers	
Interventions	Measures currently in place to deal with odour – e.g. topical treatments to the wound and environmental approaches	

The severity and nature of the wound determine the composition and the amount of the exudate released

The amount of exudate produced by a wound is dependent on:

■ Wound aetiology – some wound types are more prone to high or low exudate levels

■ Wound healing phase – the amount of exudate produced by a wound usually diminishes as healing progresses (Wounds UK, 2013)

■ Wound size, depth and position – larger and deeper wounds may produce higher levels of exudate, as can wounds in dependent parts of the body, e.g. the lower leg (Dowsett, 2012)

Comorbidities, complications and other factors – there are many other reasons for increased or decreased exudate production

Exudate Causes

Local

- Inflammation
- Infection
- Necrosis
- Allergies

Systemic

- Venous Stasis
- Lymphatic Stasis
- Systemic diseases

Chronic Wound Exudate



Exudate is an essential step in the process of wound healing

- Providing a moist wound environment
- Enabling the diffusion of immune mediators and growth factors across the wound bed
- Acting as a medium for the migration of tissue-repairing cells across the wound bed
- Supplying essential nutrients for cell metabolism
- Promoting the separation of dead or damaged tissue (autolysis) (Cutting, 2003; WUWHS, 2007).

Wounds with a moist environment heal more quickly than those that dry out and form scab (Winter, 1962). In fact, moist wounds heal 2–3 times faster than dry wounds (Swezey, 2014).

Acute Vs Chronic Environment



Healing wounds

High mitogenic potential Rapid cellular migration Balanced inflammatory cytokines Low proteases Cells responsive to growth factors

Chronic ulcers

Low mitogenic and migratory potential High inflammatory cytokines High proteases Senescent cells unresponsive to growth factors



Chronic Wound Exudate composition

Plasma components

Inflammatory Cells

Proteins (from the inflammatory response)

Bacteria

Components of Biofilm matrix

High viscosity

High Protein > 30 g/L

Exudate in chronic wounds

the level of Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha (TNF-α).
 Tarnuzzer R Wound Rep Regen 1996; 4:321-25

Level of IL-1, IL-6 e TNF-α in healing wounds
Wallace HJ, J Invest Dermatol 1998;110:292-6

▶↑ level of MMPs

Agren M, J Invest Dermatol 1999

Prolonged inflammatory phase

Healing of Pressure Ulcers is Predicted by Protease Activity in Wound Fluids



Ladwig, Robson, Liu, Kuhn, Muir, Schultz. Wound Repair Reg 10:26-37, 2002

High Levels Of IL-1 and TNFα In Fluids From Chronic Venous Ulcers Decrease With Healing



Trengove, Stacey, Macauley, Bennett, Gibson, Burslem, Murphey, Schultz. Wound Rep Reg 7:442-452, 1999

international wound journal 🧐

International Wound Journal ISSN 1742-4801

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Acute and chronic wound fluids influence keratinocyte function differently

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Figure 3 Gene expression changes by acute wound fluid (AWF) and chronic wound fluid (CWF). Keratinocytes were treated with 2% AWF (dark grey lines) or 2% CWF (light black lines) for 2, 12 and 24 hours or left untreated. Fold-changes of gene expression were analysed by gRT–PCR and plotted as mean \pm SD. Asteriaks indicate significant differences in gene expression between AWF and CWF with $P \leq 0.05$ (n = 3).

Chronic Wound Exudate



Chronic Wound Exudate Consequences



Exudate complications

≻Colonization

- >Proteins and electrolites decrease
- ► Maceration
- Impair wound healing/wound expansion
- ➢Discomfort/pain





White Maceration

Red Maceration

Chronic Wound Exudate







Chronic Wound fluid :

Needs to be controlled and treated

Needs to be modified (quantity and quality)

Needs to be transformed from chronic to acute

Interaction between MMP9 and Bacteria activity

Wound exudate composition

Wound state indicator

Reflects wound biochemical processes

Allows the identification of prognosis / diagnostic markers

Wound Exudate Analysis Methods



Cerusico J et al Analyst 2018



The identification of biomarkers that predict a healing response would represent a milestone in the understanding of the tissue repair pathology and potentially point to novel therapies for chronic wounds.



Proteome Analysis of Wound exudate

« A Proteomic window» on wound bed status Eming S. et al J of Proteome Res 2010

Healing Wounds

ECM: Collagen Family (I-III) (granulation tissue formation)

Tetranectin (6 fold increase) (plasminogen.-activation)

Serine proteinase thrombin

SERPINs (1and 3) SERPINF 1 (3,4 fold increase) (antiangiogenesis) **Dermcidin**

Non - Healing Wounds

ECM : Fibronectina Fibrinogen Vitronectin a2-HS -glycoprotein olfactomedin-4

(components of provisional ECM)

MMP9 Leucocytes elastase Proteinase 3 **SERPIND 1** (inhibits thrombin) **Immunomodulatory molecules:** Lactotransferrin ANXA1 S100A9

Take Home Messages

- Wound exudate reflects wound status and may influence cellular functions
- The analysis of exudate is a highly promising approach to gain a better understanding of the complex mechanisms underlying pathologic phenomena
- ...and to develop novel target therapy for chronic wound



Firenze Febbraio 2025 Auditorium al Duomo

