Case study

Smith+Nephew

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The use of PICO◊ single-use Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (sNPWT) to facilitate healing in a breast wound following incision and drainage

Case Study plus points

Introduction

Breast abscesses are a common condition affecting women (18-50 years of age), characterised by purulent discharge and inflammation with or without infection, mostly caused by bacteria that colonise the skin.[1] It is a frequent breast problem during pregnancy and the first months of motherhood. Obese women and smokers are at higher risk of having a non-lactational abscess. Incision and drainage is the standard of treatment. Usually these wounds heal relatively quickly.[1,2]

Case presentation

This patient was a 35-year-old woman with type 2 diabetes, was of normal weight, a non-smoker, and the breast abscess was not associated with pregnancy. This required incision and drainage.

Challenges and treatment

Five months after drainage, the patient continued to present with a non-healing wound. On assessment, the wound was 1cm deep and described as having friable granulation tissue with moderate exudate levels, and no pain. Daily dressing changes were carried out by the practice nurse team. At this time, the wound was changed daily with gelling fiber silver dressing and a foam with silicone border. A lack of progression to healing over a period of five months, led to the introduction of PICO 7 sNPWT to facilitate healing and reduce nursing visits.

Outcomes

The wound size was 2cm x 1cm x 1cm at first PICO sNPWT application (Image 1, 2), and after one week it measured 0.5cm x 0.5cm x 0.5cm in size with low exudate. The patient was happy the wound had almost healed. Complete healing was seen after two weeks of sNPWT (Image 3). The clinician stated that PICO system was easy to apply and remove. The patient felt it was comfortable on the skin and that the PICO system was unobtrusive.

Conclusion

A surgical incision can turn into a non-healing wound over time, often resulting in time spend on daily wound care and distress. This case study has demonstrated that PICO sNPWT can kick start healing in this type of wound indication, whilst managing moderate levels of exudate.

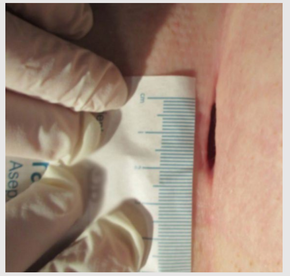

Image 1: Wound area 2cm x 1cm

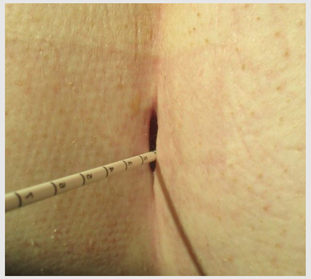

Image 2: Showing depth of the wound 1cm

Image 3: Wound healed after two weeks of sNPWT

Individual results will vary.

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References
1. Boakes E, Woods A, Johnson N, Kadoglou N. Breast Infection: A Review of Diagnosis and Management Practices. Eur J Breast Health. 2018 Jul 1;14(3):136-143. doi: 10.5152/ejbh.2018.3871. PMID: 30123878; PMCID: PMC6092150. **2.** Toomey A, Le JK. Breast Abscess. 2022 Jun 27. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan–. PMID: 29083702.