

# ALLEVYN LIFE case study

Leeann Davies, Staff Nurse at Walsall Manor Hospital, UK  
Krysia Blaize, Tissue Viability Nurse at Walsall Manor Hospital, UK



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4: ALLEVYN LIFE *in-situ*

This case study highlights the advantages of using ALLEVYN LIFE on highly exuding wounds in order to help reduce dressing changes<sup>1</sup> and help to reduce disturbances<sup>2</sup> to the wound during the healing process whilst reducing patient anxiety during dressing changes<sup>3</sup>. Significant cost savings can also be demonstrated.

## Patient background and wound history:

- 77-year-old female with two pressure injuries, category 4 with high levels of exudate that required dressing changes on average every 12 hours.
- Duration of wounds prior to admission unknown, previous history of pressure injuries.
- Dementia rendered the patient non-compliant and position changes were difficult to maintain.
- Weight recorded in the Nursing Home was 42.7kg and patient was reported to eat well.
- Co-morbidities: NIDDM (non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus), Cataracts.

## Wound assessment on admission (Image 1-3)

16.10.2015

- Sacral wound measured 7cm x 2cm with 1.5cm depth stringy debriding slough present. Category 3 with potential once debrided to become a category 4. No other pressure damage highlighted.
- Original dressing consisted of: Flaminal forte, ALLEVYN Gentle Border.
- Right hip diagnosed as healing Category 4 with 100% exposed muscle. Wound measured 3.5cm x 5.5cm, depth 0.5cm, tracking north 4cm, north-east 5cm and east 2cm. Surrounding skin described as being healthy.
- Original dressing consisted of: Silver alginate for 2 weeks and ALLEVYN Gentle Border.
- Prior to admission frequent dressing changes had been required due to high levels of exudate (2 changes every 24 hrs on average).

## Treatment

Decision made to change from ALLEVYN Gentle Border to ALLEVYN LIFE with the aim of reducing the amount of dressing changes required to reduce anxiety for the patient and minimise disturbances to the wound.

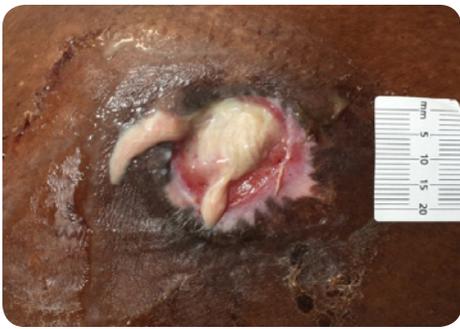


Image 5: Hip picture with tendon devitalised



Image 6: Sacrum picture



Image 7: 6 weeks later Sacrum



Image 8: 6 weeks later Hip

## Outcomes

- An immediate improvement in dressing applications was seen on the introduction of ALLEVYN® LIFE - dressing changes were reduced to once daily which meant less anxiety for the patient and fewer dressings required.
- Nursing staff pleased with the ease of application. Quadrilobe shape conformed well to the body.

(23.10.2015)

- After one week of using ALLEVYN LIFE - dressing changes were reduced to once every 48 hrs. Silver alginate was discontinued after 2 weeks of application and a gelling fibre primary dressing was used to pack both wounds underneath ALLEVYN LIFE.

(27.11.2015)

- Six weeks post-admission - wounds debrided to reveal full extent of damage and a cavity filling with healthy granulation and epithelial tissue evident.
  - Wound Measurements.
  - Hip: 3cm x 2.5cm undermining edges 4cm and 3cm.
  - Sacrum: 5cm x 2cm undermining edges 4cm and 2cm.

## Review

- Switching to ALLEVYN LIFE to reduce dressing changes worked and resulted in improved exudate management for these highly exuding wounds.
- Reduction in dressing changes increased comfort and reduced anxiety for the patient whilst minimising disturbances to the wound to help maintain favourable healing conditions<sup>2,3</sup>. This also reduced the number of dressings used and reduced the cost initially by 43% and later on by 75% when even fewer changes and dressings were required<sup>6</sup>.
- Reduction in dressing changes allowed for efficiencies in nursing time allocation.
- Benefits of the product with the wider border and high absorbency<sup>4</sup> resulted in protection of surrounding tissues that showed no signs of trauma or maceration<sup>3,4,5</sup>.
- Improvement and reduction in size of both wounds.

The impact of reducing the frequency of dressing changes for the Clinician meant that the use of time could be otherwise spent.

The patient was able to remain comfortable without unnecessary disturbance of additional dressing changes, with the clinical team having the reassurance that ALLEVYN LIFE was able to stay in place on challenging anatomical locations<sup>2</sup>.

Smith & Nephew Pty Ltd  
85 Waterloo Rd  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Australia  
T +61 2 9857 3999  
F +61 2 9857 3900

Smith & Nephew Ltd  
Unit A 36 Hillside Rd  
Wairau Valley Auckland 0627  
New Zealand  
T +64 9 820 2840  
F +64 9 820 2841

[www.smith-nephew.com/australia](http://www.smith-nephew.com/australia)  
[www.smith-nephew.com/new-zealand](http://www.smith-nephew.com/new-zealand)

®Trademark of Smith & Nephew  
All Trademarks acknowledged  
SNI4111 (09/18)

Supporting healthcare professionals for over 150 years

## References

1. Joy H et al., A collaborative project to enhance efficiency through dressing change. Poster presented at Wounds UK 2014. 2. OR DOF020 Performance of silicone dressings – ALLEVYN LIFE. 3. Rossington, A et al., 2013. Clinical performance and positive impact on patient wellbeing of ALLEVYN LIFE. *Wounds UK* 9(4): 91-95. 4. Smith & Nephew data on file report DS/12/124/DOF Fluid handling properties of ALLEVYN LIFE. *In-vitro*. 5. Smith & Nephew data on file report DS/12/123/DOF Physical properties of ALLEVYN LIFE, June 2012. Roberts Sarah *In-vitro*. 6. Drug Tariff September 2015.