

Cost Savings with the Use of Antimicrobial Dressings¹

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Introduction: At the Firefighters Regional Burn Center, antimicrobial dressings are used on selected partial thickness and excised full thickness wounds per standard protocols. Beginning in January, 2009, the unit began using TheraBond® 3D Antimicrobial Barrier Systems (Choice Therapeutics). Acticoat® Antimicrobial Dressings (Smith & Nephew) had been previously utilized as the standard dressing for these wounds.

A review of our clinical experience and product costs was conducted covering the first six months of TheraBond 3D usage vs. the prior six months with Acticoat. Case volumes and patient mix were approximately the same for each six month period.

Our clinical experience revealed:

- Less frequent dressing changes with TheraBond 3D vs. Acticoat. Our experience with Acticoat was that it would become saturated, often requiring a dressing change in 1 – 3 days. TheraBond 3D's design enables the transfer of fluid and exudate to an inexpensive outer dressing. As a result, TheraBond 3D could be kept on the wound for seven days.²
- Nursing time was decreased due to fewer dressing changes.
- TheraBond 3D is much more conformable than Acticoat, providing stable contact with the burn surface.
- The TheraBond 3D wraps can be applied easily and rapidly to the extremities and stay in place. Acticoat is difficult for one person to apply and often moves after application to the extremity.
- For patients, TheraBond 3D is more comfortable. It was also more convenient because of fewer dressing changes. Outpatient visits and the associated inconvenience and co-pays were reduced.

Costs: The cost of dressings was reviewed for the respective periods. It was found that the Firefighters Burn Center saved over \$100,000 during the six month period when TheraBond 3D was used vs. the six month period when Acticoat was used.

Conclusion: Based on clinical and cost advantages, the Firefighters Burn Center intends to continue using TheraBond 3D according to the unit's standard protocols.

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² At the time of this review, TheraBond 3D had a seven day wear time. Wear time has since been increased to fourteen days.