

Cutimed Science Card

Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet S: Study confirms up to 28% cost savings in wound treatment.

Study >> Panca M. et al. 2013.

Cutimed®

Experts recommendation on cost-effectiveness of exudate management dressings

- The World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) emphasises that moderately to highly exuding wounds such as venous leg ulcers (VLUs) are a burden on healthcare systems worldwide¹.
- Dressings account for only a minor part of wound care costs. The main drivers are the costs for care¹.



Attributes to decrease care costs

- Healing rate
- Time to healing
- Analgetic use
- Frequency of dressing change



Indicators to measure care costs

- Quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) are a measure of health outcomes. A year of perfect health is given a value of 1.0. Years with impairments are given a value between 0 and 1 depending on the severity of the impairment.
- Cost-effectiveness of dressings is defined as the cost per QALY gained.



Dressings with better outcome on attributes and at lower costs are favourable choices

References

1. World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) (2019). Consensus Document. Wound exudate: effective assessment and management. London: Wounds International
2. Panca M et al. Clinical and cost-effectiveness of absorbent dressings in the treatment of highly exuding VLUs. J Wound Care. 2013; 22:109-10, 112-8.
3. Vermeulen H et al. Preferences of patients, doctors, and nurses regarding wound dressing characteristics: a conjoint analysis. Wound Repair Regen. 2007; 15:302-307.

The study

Background: Comparative study² to estimate the clinical and cost effectiveness of 1 gelling fiber* (Aquacel[®]) and 4 superabsorbent dressings (DryMax[®] Extra, Fliwasorb[®], KerraMax[®] Care[™], sachet S**) from the perspective of the National Health Service (NHS).

Method: A decision model was constructed depicting the patient pathways and associated management of a cohort of 439 patients with highly exuding chronic VLUs of ≥ 3 months of age. The model was based on the case records of matched patients from The Health Improvement Network database (a nationally representative database of patients registered by general practitioners in the UK) who were treated with one of the 5 dressings. The model estimated the costs and outcomes of patient management over 6 months and the relative cost-effectiveness of using each dressing.

Results: Compared to the remaining three superabsorbers, the use of Cutimed[®] Sorbion[®] Sachet S led to up to 28% lower costs for VLU treatment and improved the patients' health status to a greater extent: The patients gained 0.3–3% more QALYs.

* Aquacel[®] is a carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) gelling fiber. Aquacel[®]-treated wounds that remained unhealed increased in size by 43% over the study period, whereas unhealed wounds treated with the other dressings decreased in size by a mean 34%. Consequently, Aquacel[®] was excluded from the cost-effectiveness analysis.

** Identical to Cutimed[®] Sorbion[®] Sachet S (BSN medical GmbH)

Clinical outcome Ranking of attributes

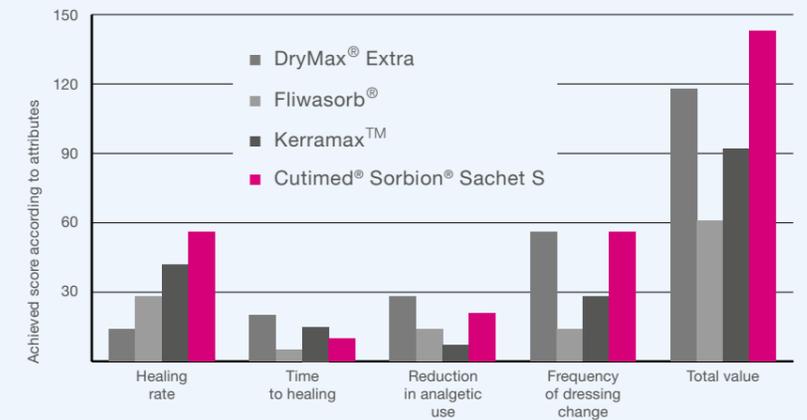


Table 1. For the evaluation of the clinical outcomes, the most important attributes were defined and scored (Vermeulen et al.³) as follows: Healing rate = 14, time to healing = 5, frequency of dressing change = 14, analgetic use = 7. Superabsorbers were rated for each of the attributes according to a scale from 1 to 4. The respective value was multiplied by the scores of the attributes. The higher the resulting score, the better the clinical outcome.

Total costs per patient in comparison

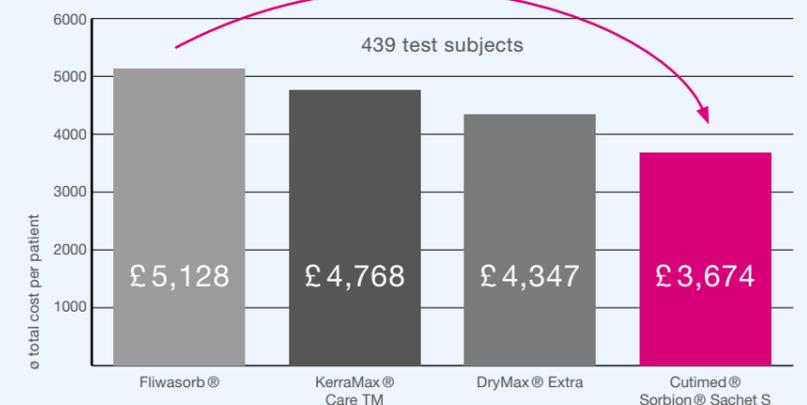


Table 2. Total cost of care per patient for the UK National Health Service in the treatment of venous leg ulcer over 6 months

An updated study using relevant comparators and current cost data was conducted by Walzer et al. (2018). Please read the latest data on the cost-effectiveness of exudate management dressings:



Conclusion for clinical practice

WUWHS shows that the most important factor for cost efficiency is the reduction of care costs by factors such as the frequency of dressing changes. Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet S fulfills the WUWHS requirements and is a favourable choice due to better healing rates and fewer dressing changes compared to competitor products. Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet S reduces the total therapy costs per patient by up to 28%. In addition patients gained 0.3 – 3% more QALYs.



Cutimed® Sorbion® Sachet S

