

Cutimed[®] Science Card

Cutimed[®] Epiona[®] relieved pain for 49% venous leg ulcer patients after four weeks

Oropallo A et al. Observational study of venous leg ulcer treated with a native collagen-alginate dressing and the impact on wound-related quality of life. Wound Manag Prev. 2024 Dec;70(4).



What experts recommend

It is widely accepted that Venous Leg Ulcer (VLU) are indicative of hard-to-heal wounds. These are often characterized by an excess of MMPs*, which impair the healing process by breaking down the ECM** and reducing the activity of growth factors. In line with the recommendations set out in the international expert consensus document, the use of biological acellular matrices, such as native collagen dressings, is advised to accelerate the wound healing process.¹

The most common symptom associated with VLUs is pain, which has a significant impact on quality of life (QoL). Therefore, in addition to addressing wound symptoms, it is important to consider the impact on wound-related QoL when developing a treatment plan.²

Key criteria for optimal patient outcomes¹



Wound size reduction

- Achieves complete wound healing



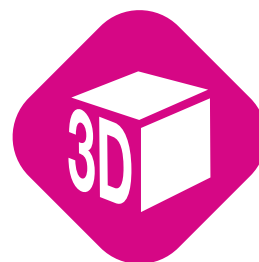
Pain reduction

- Improves patient comfort and wound-related QoL



Adaptation to wound area

- For maximum efficiency



ECM resemblance

- Maintains natural architecture and key components for wound healing

References

1. International consensus. Acellular matrices for the treatment of wounds. An expert working group review. London: Wounds International, 2010.

2. Holloway S et al. Holistic Management of Wound-Related Pain. J Wound Management, 2024;25 (1 Sup1). S1-S84.

* Matrix metalloproteases

** Extracellular matrix

The study

Background: Observational, exploratory, single-centre study of the clinical performance and safety of a native collagen dressing*** in non-healing VLU.

Method: A total of 50 patients with VLUs were treated with a native collagen dressing, a secondary dressing and compression for 4 weeks/5 visits or until complete wound healing was achieved. The primary outcome measure was wound area reduction. Secondary outcomes included patient-reported pain and wound-related QoL, including subscores (body, well-being and everyday life) and the incidence of adverse events.

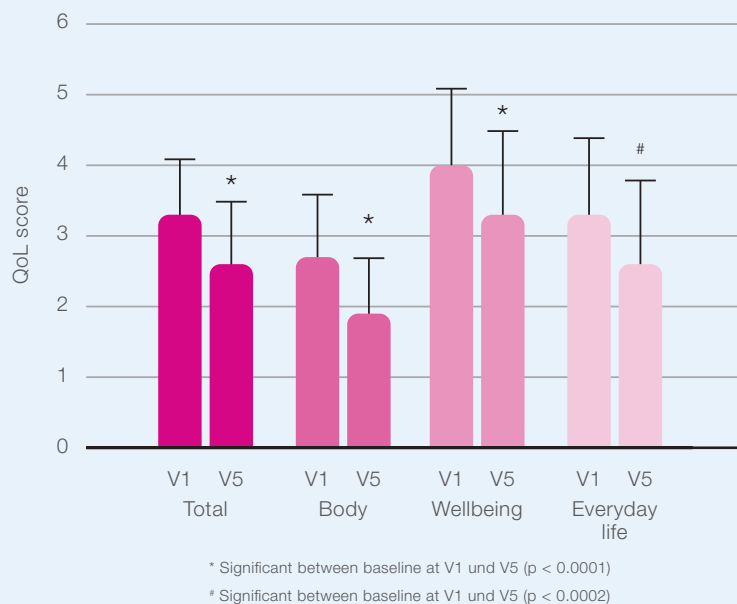
Results: The mean wound area at visit 1 (V1) was $17.8 \pm 11.2 \text{ cm}^2$ and decreased significantly to $11.4 \pm 9.0 \text{ cm}^2$ at visit 5 (V5), representing a mean reduction of 32.2%. Patients' QoL total and subscores showed a significant decrease at the final visit compared to V1, indicating a significant QoL increase. In principle, a lower QoL value corresponds to a higher quality of life. The QoL wellbeing subscore correlates with wound size reduction. Wound pain decreased after only 2 weeks. The number of patients with no pain (0 on visual analog scale/VAS) increased steadily from 7 patients (14.9%) at V1 to 23 patients (48.9%) at V5. Adaptation of the dressing to the affected area were rated by participating health professionals 'very good' for all 50 treatments. No adverse events were reported.

Patient Outcome

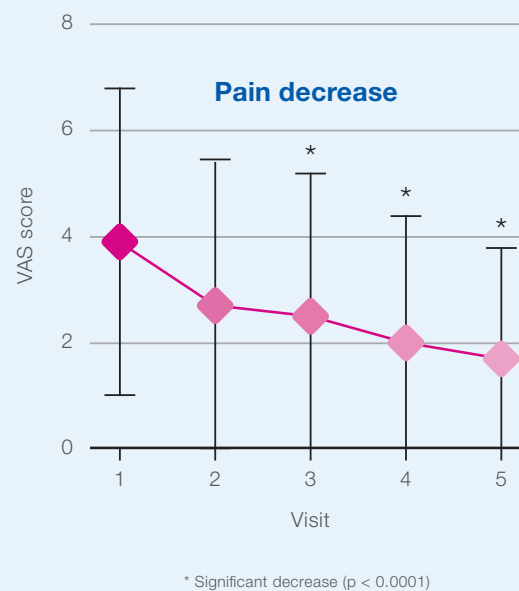
49%
pain-free
at V5

Patients' QoL score showed a significant decrease and thus a significant increase in the quality of life. The number of patients with no pain increased steadily.

Significant QoL increase



Pain decrease



***Cutimed® Epiona® (BSN medical, Hamburg, Germany) is a native 3-dimensional (3D) matrix structure that contains 90% native collagen and 10% calcium alginate.

More Information

Link to the full version of the original study.



Conclusion

The study shows that treating patients with Cutimed Epiona, in addition to standard of care, can improve VLU outcomes in terms of wound size reduction, pain and quality of life, even in hard-to-heal ulcers that have not previously responded to standard therapy. On top of that, no adverse events were reported. In conclusion, Cutimed Epiona promotes wound healing in hard-to-heal and complex VLUs and adequately reduces patient pain. This fulfils the requirements set out by international expert committees. By reducing wound surface area and presumably wound pain, the dressing also has a direct positive impact on patient QoL.

