EXPERIENCE WITH THE USE OF AN AMELOGENIN-BASED EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX SUBSTITUTE* IN THE MANAGEMENT OF A VARIETY OF COMPLEX HARD-TO-HEAL CHRONIC WOUNDS

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Aim: An extracellular matrix substitute* has been demonstrated to improve healing in recalcitrant venous leg ulcers (1). This series of case reports reviews our experience with hard-to-heal wounds of a variety of aetiologies.

Method: Fourteen patients (11M: 3F), mean age 64.9 years all with longstanding chronic wounds (mean duration 33 months) that had failed to respond adequately to appropriate disease specific “standard” care were recruited to the study. There were 2 patients with rheumatoid ulcers and 3 with Rheumatoid arthritis complicating healing of other wounds, 4 with neuropathic foot ulcers, 4 venous and one mixed ulcer. All wounds were traced, photographed and documented using a standard record format and data was also collected using Teller. The mean wound area was 10.84 cm² (Range 1-57 cm²). Amelogenin proteins were applied to the wound bed according to the manufacturers instructions using the supplied applicator. For larger wounds two or more syringe applicators were used. The wounds were then dressed with an appropriate secondary dressing, the majority receiving a soft silicone foam dressing**. All patients received other standard care as appropriate.

Results: In all cases there was an early reduction in both wound pain and exudate. In two patient treatment was discontinued due to infection and wound deterioration. Currently 6 wounds have healed (mean 8 (range 3-16) applications). 6 further patients have improved with over a 50% reduction in wound size. These patients are continuing to receive amelogenin therapy.

Conclusion: Results obtained in this varied hard-to-heal ulcer population managed in a tertiary referral wound healing unit support the clinical value of advanced products in this difficult to manage ulcer population. Increasing interest in therapy targeting the extracellular matrix appears justified.

*Xelma™ (Molnlycke Health Care) **Mepilex™