

Debridement made easy

Debridement is the process by which unhealthy tissue is removed from a wound site, and as such is crucial in the safe and healthy treatment of everything from deep cuts to chronic wounds. Liezl Naude, an independent wound management consultant, talks about how her use of **B. Braun Medical's** Prontosan Debridement Pad complements and even in some cases replaces the traditional versions of this healing technique, where the main outcome is to deliver better outcomes for the patient.

What is debridement, and why is it important in the wound-healing process?

Liezl Naude: Debridement is one of the cornerstones of wound bed preparation and wound management in general. Since the introduction of wound bed preparation (WBP) in 2002, several authors have turned WBP into an art form. Probably the most well-known teaching on debridement is the use of the principles of the TIME model published by Caroline Dowsett and Heather Newton in 2005. Standing for tissue, infection/inflammation, moisture imbalance and edge of wound, the focus of this technique is on managing the wound bed by removing non-viable or deficient tissue.

“The hydrophilic structure of the dressing is a microfibre fibrous structure that is able to pick up particles and debris without hurting the patient.”

Why are chronic wounds uniquely difficult to treat through debridement?

Chronic wounds are, by their very nature, contaminated wounds. The degree of contamination present is often dependent on a variety of factors, including the nature of the host's immune response, the wound site, the type of tissue involved and co-morbidities. This means that biofilm formation is inevitable, and that good wound bed preparation or cleansing techniques are essential in managing and preventing infection. Another factor that cannot be disregarded in the treatment of chronic wounds is pain. Special attention must be paid by the attending physician or nurse to procedural pain when it comes to local debridement in the community or out-of-hospital setting. Chronic wounds also often require regular debridement to deal with the build-up of fibrin and biofilm formation.

Can you explain how the Prontosan Debridement Pad by B. Braun Medical complements more traditional wound debridement methods?

The Prontosan Debridement Pad is ideal for treating chronic wounds, including pressure ulcers, venous leg ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers. The microfibre technology within the pad is what makes all the difference. The hydrophilic structure of the dressing is a microfibre fibrous structure that picks up particles and debris without causing pain.

Additionally, the pad's microfibers use microscopic electrostatic forces to bind to particles, further increasing their

ability to lift and retain particles of slough and debris. It almost works like a Hoover, sucking up all the non-viable and deficient tissue. The pad is also very effective in removing senescent cells around the wound bed in chronic venous leg ulcers.

How easy have you found it to use the pad, and how have patients you've treated with it benefitted?

We've been using the Prontosan Debridement Pad on a variety of different patients and wounds, and the shape of the pad makes it easy to get to that difficult-to-reach areas. Crucially, it doesn't require specialist training, and can be used as much in the community as in home nursing settings. In terms of improvements, the most significant has been the noticeable decrease in procedural pain, but also pain in general.

The wound bed is also cleaned easily without invasive debridement techniques.



From the top: Chronic wound before cleansing, during cleansing and after cleansing.

Healthy granulation of the tissue at the wound site was often visible with one application in combination with a Prontosan irrigation solution soaking.

How have patients reacted to the treatment?

Patients requested the use of the Prontosan Debridement Pad rather than the use of a curette or sharp debridement. Quality of life improved and, overall, patients were able to cope better with procedures, and wound healing occurred faster. ●

For further information

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Prontosan®

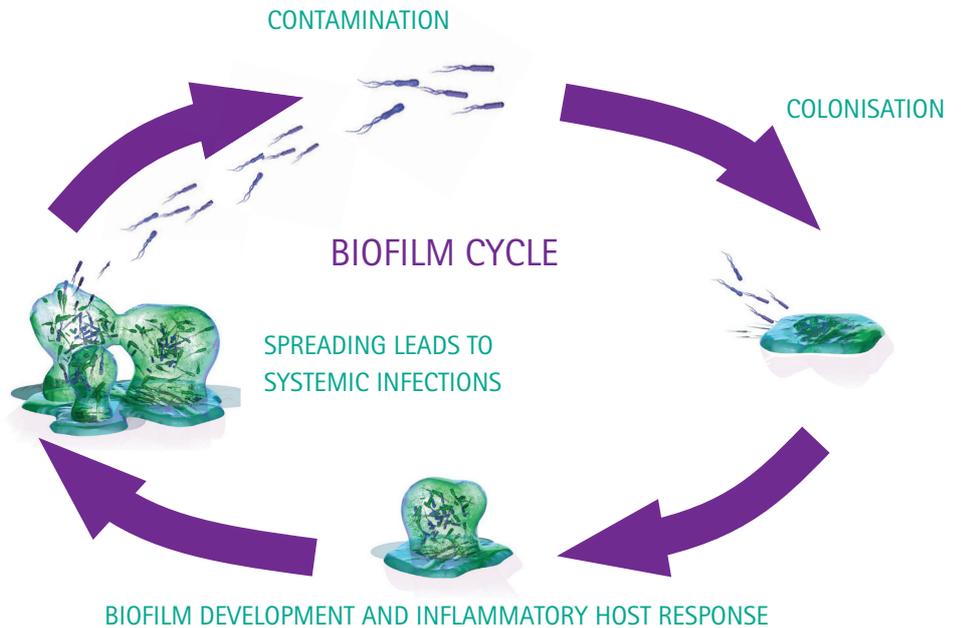
BREAKS THE BIOFILM CYCLE

THE PROBLEM

Traditional wound cleansing with saline and water is ineffective at removing coatings and debris in many wounds, especially complex biofilms.

FACT: Over 90% of chronic wounds have a biofilm present which is a major barrier to wound healing¹.

OVER
90%
OF WOUNDS HAVE
A BIOFILM¹



SOLUTION

Prontosan® with its unique combination of Betaine surfactant and Polyhexanide antimicrobial is proven to disturb biofilms in wounds.^{1,2}

Over 10 years of clinical practice demonstrate that by routinely introducing a Prontosan® regime as part of your patient pathway you will achieve better results, incl.:

- Improved patient outcomes, including time to heal³
- Prevention of complications⁴



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1) Cutting K, (2010), Addressing the challenge of wound cleansing in the modern era, British Journal of Nursing, 2010 (Tissue Viability Supplement), Vol 19, No 11.
 2) Davis SC, Harding A, Gil J, Parajon F, Valdes J, Solis M & Higa A "Effectiveness of a polyhexanide irrigation solution on MRSA biofilms in a porcine wound model" IWJ 1742-4801, 2017, 1-8.
 3) Bellingeri, A. et al. "Effect Of A Wound Cleansing Solution On Wound Bed Preparation And Inflammation In Chronic Wounds: A Single-Blind RCT". Journal of Wound Care 25.3 (2016): 160-168. Web.
 4) Moore, M 0.1% Polyhexanide-Betaine Solution as an Adjuvant in a Case-Series of Chronic Wounds, Surg Technology International, 2016.