BACK TO BASICS: DEBRIDEMENT

Guide To Wound Bed Preparation





WHEN SHOULD YOU DEBRIDE?



Some areas demand extra caution and should not be debrided before advice is sought²

- High-risk areas: face, hands, feet, genitalia
- Ischaemic limbs
- Wounds associated with congenital malformations or in which malignancy is suspected
- Wounds in proximity to blood vessels, nerves and tendons
- Wounds in patients who cannot give informed consent, or in those on palliative treatment regimens
- Any wound that has not been properly assessed by a competent practitioner (origin and diagnosis unknown)
- Wounds in patients with blood clotting disorders
- Wounds in patients with possible implants and/or dialysis fistulas
- Patients with inflammatory conditions, such as Pyoderma gangrenosum

HOW TO CHOOSE A DEBRIDEMENT METHOD



The choice of method should be based on:

- Nature of the tissue
- Anatomical location
- Size of the wound
- Speed of debridement required²

You should also take into account³:

| Patient factors | Clinician factors |
|---|--|
| Level of painEnvironment | Level of skillAvailable resources |
| Choice and consent | Organisation's policy |
| Age and any comorbiditiesQuality of life | Organisation's guidelines (local formulary listings) |

DEBRIDEMENT METHODS IN PRIMARY CARE

Debridement methods require varying levels of expertise. You need to consider your skills to perform the task and refer to a specialist if necessary⁴.



MECHANICAL DEBRIDEMENT

Mechanical debridement refers to the process of removing dead, devitalised or contaminated tissue from the wound bed in order to encourage wound healing¹. Debridement removes bacteria and can disrupt biofilm. It is recognised as an essential step to facilitate wound healing⁴.



MECHANICAL DEBRIDEMENT USING CUTIMED® DEBRICLEAN®

Cutimed[®] DebriClean[®] is a brand new, innovative product. It contains gentle looped monofilament fibres in white alongside more abrasive looped monofilament fibres in blue. It is able to absorb bacteria and remove firm/viscous slough.



Clean Cutimed® DebriClean pad

product is placed in a test tube with bacteria (Pseudomonas aeruginosa)

High quantity of bacterial microbes bound to Cutimed® DebriClean pad

of bacterial Sample was then ound to intensively rinsed riClean pad mechanically to remove loosely attached bacteria

After rinsing, Cutimed[®] DebriClean shows much higher bacterial binding to wound microorganisms than other products

DebriClean® offers:

> 99% biofilm removal with just four wipes⁶
 Strong cleaning efficiency^{6.7}
 Effective bacterial binding⁸



DEBRIDEMENT METHODS AVAILABLE VIA SPECIALIST REFERRAL

Specialist Referral^{1,2,9}





It is important to know when to refer to a specialist best qualified to debride. Remember that NOT debriding / referring can potentially cause harm to your patients; involve your multidisciplinary team where you need to in order to provide the care your patients need¹.



BACK TO BASICS: DEBRIDEMENT

If you have found this **Back to Basics** guide helpful, look out for futher guides in the series - including the guide on **Identification and Management of Wound Infection.**

References

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Essity T/A BSN medical Limited PO Box 258 • Willerby • Hull • HU10 6WT www.bsnmedical.co.uk Tel: 01482 670100 • Fax: 01482 670111 E-mail: advancedwoundcare.uk@essity.com

