

Effectiveness of Leukomed® Control used post-operatively following cruciate repair

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Introduction

Two female dogs aged five and seven, both neutered, underwent a cruciate repair right hind. The dressing was applied to cover the incision wound for protection.

Methods

The dressing was not applied until approximately 30 minutes after the operation was completed and the patient was back in recovery in each case. Due to previous issues with dressings not sticking to the skin and covering the wound we did not apply until the skin was completely dry, so there was a lag period of approximately 30 minutes before dressing the operative site.

The dogs had very fine hair that once clipped left almost bare skin. The skin was surgically prepped as normal for orthopaedic surgery, and cleansed post-operatively with Prontosan™ and Hartmanns™ solution padded dry with sterile towels.

Results

When Leukomed® Control was applied it stuck easily to the skin, felt soft and instantly conformed to the operation site. It was easy to apply and to remove the backing film cover to release it onto the skin.

The dressing covered the wound fully and stayed semi clear so observation of the wound was possible without removing the dressing. In previous applications of non-woven post-operative dressings, they would start to lift and peel away, not staying in place. Leukomed® Control stayed in place securely for four days and the wound was observed through the dressing at day one post-operatively. At this point, the assessment indicated that the dressing could be left in place until day four.

The dressing was removed easily with limited 'skin pull'. The skin was slightly red where the adhesive had been in contact with the skin, but once the dressing was off the redness was short lived and faded to normal inside 15 minutes post dressing removal.

The dogs showed no sign of discomfort on dressing removal, although Leukomed® Control was moistened with water at any sensitive areas, to aid removal and reduce discomfort. This worked very well. Post-operative dressings used in the past has been difficult to remove causing pain for the patient. Leukomed® Control was removed with ease and little discomfort for the patients.

The dressing conformed over the cruciate site well covering the entire wound and surrounding skin. It appeared to allow movement freely and the dogs were comfortable at all times. You can see the wound progress through the dressing, without removing the dressing, keeping the wound protected, minimising any pain caused by routine dressing changes, and preventing external contaminants entering the wound.

The dressing was in situ for four days, no odour or leakage was observed, the wound appeared to be healing in a timely manner with no signs of infection or complications evident.

Conclusion

In this case Leukomed® Control out performed expectations. I liked the fact the dressing had antibacterial / viral properties to protect the wound over a longer period of time. It conformed very well and gently mimicked the skins action without causing redness or soreness from the adhesive edge.

I would recommend the dressing for post-operative cruciate surgery having found it easy and effective to use. It locked away any exudate and maintained a moist wound healing environment giving the wound protection throughout the initial, vulnerable period of healing.



Day 0 post-op



Day four post-op check



Day 0 dressing removal



Day four post dressing removal