Animal health newsletter
Febuary 2023

2-minute read: Surgical incision top tips

Background: A wound is a loss of continuity of the skin, it may occur following surgery. Any break in the skin increases the risk of **bacterial contamination**. The animal is potentially more at risk of infection due to the following factors, malnutrition, immunosuppression, animal interference or owner compliance. Here are some top tips to consider with regards to infection prevention:

Wound Related:

- Adhere to hand hygiene protocols, before and after handling patients
- If there is potential for gross contamination, hands should be thoroughly washed (Hand sanitiser alone is only appropriate without gross contamination)
- Implement aseptic handling of the wound and/or drain sites
- Where clinically appropriate, cover with a wound dressing. For more information on utilising **Leukomed® T Plus**, **Leukomed® Control** and **Leukomed® Sorbact®**, please contact animalhealthcare@essity.com
- Monitor your patient for changes in temperature and consider removing unnecessary catheters, drains and tubes before considering infection
- Carry out regular holistic wound assessments. For further information on holistic assessment click here: Veterinary Literature (essity.co.uk)

Husbandry:

- Clean kennel area regularly – just changing the bed when soiled is not enough, ideally we should clean the entire kennel area once a day
- Consider barrier nursing for immunocompromised patients – they do not necessarily need to be isolated, but taking additional hygiene steps can decrease the risk of an overwhelmed immune system
- Improper/lack of use of Elizabethan collars has been found to be a risk factor for development of SSIs – be sure to have a conversation with the client about understanding the implications and finding an option that suits them, one method will not fit all!
- Additional nutritional support should be provided based on body condition scoring

Dressings which bind bacteria can lower the bacterial load in a range of wound types.

Find out more below

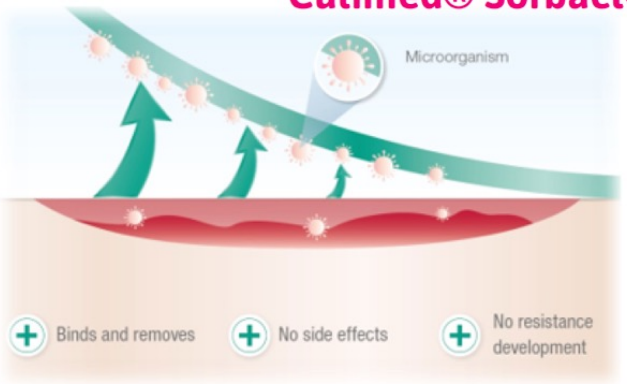
Product focus:
Cutimed® Sorbact®

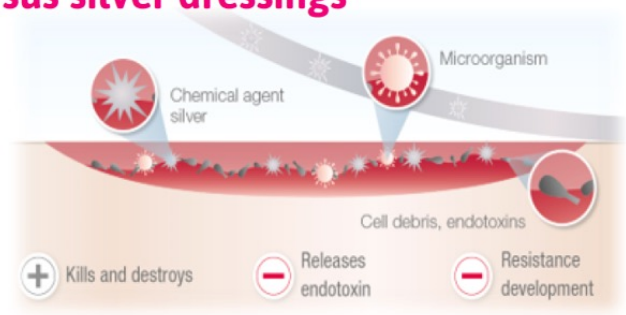
Bacteria binding technology to manage wound bioburden

Cutimed® Sorbact® is a versatile and effective wound dressing, for the management of infected wounds.

- **Cutimed® Sorbact®** binds and removes bacteria and fungi
- **Cutimed® Sorbact®** can be used in a variety of wound stages (refer to IFU for further information)

Cutimed® Sorbact® versus silver dressings





Spotlight on:
Educational support

We have dedicated online resources to help you learn more about Essity products and how they can help in your practice.

From case studies to product ranges and catalogues, visit:

Veterinary Literature (essity.co.uk)

For upcoming courses and webinars see Essity news below and for more information on the educational support which can be provided please contact:
animalhealthcare@essity.com

Case study focus:

Background:

Breed: Greyhound

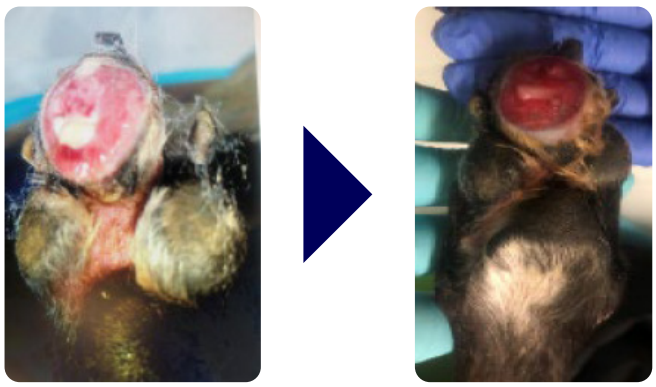
Issue: Pressure ulcer to middle digit which progressed into open wound

History: Previous amputation of another digit, possibly leading to inappropriate distribution of weight and subsequent secondary pressure injury.

Wound Management:

- Managed using **Cutimed® Sorbact®** ribbon – client felt it was easy to wrap around the wound and between the patient's digits, while maintaining good contact with the wound bed.
- Secured in place with **Cutimed® Siltec®** and standard three-layer bandage over dressings.
- Successfully moved pressure injury from inflammatory phase into proliferative phase of healing.

Outcome:



Minimal complications. A wound between the digits can be prone to excessive moisture/sweat but client found excess moisture between the digits was managed well with the combined use of **Cutimed® Sorbact®** ribbon and **Cutimed® Siltec®**.

Essity news

Practice meetings

Essity delivers wound management virtual meetings on various topics to Veterinary Practices. They are all CPD Accredited.

For further information follow these useful links:

Find more information

Register here to view the video: Docebo E-learning (essity.uk)

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