

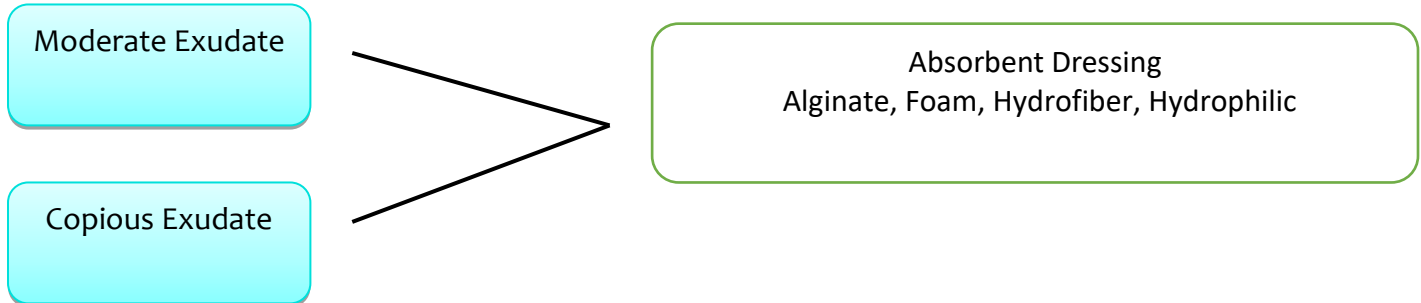
Wound Care Enabler Series

Enabler # 6: Use of Foam Dressings with Diabetic Foot Ulcers

Question: Are foam dressings contraindicated with Diabetic Foot Ulcers?

Answer: The simple answer is NO, but choice of wound dressing should be based in wound assessment and selection of the most useful management properties offered by each dressing type¹. As with most wounds, there is insufficient evidence to recommend a specific dressing type for diabetic foot ulcers².

Indication for use of foam: Foams are indicated for the control of wound exudate, and are in the category of absorbent dressings. The choice of absorbent dressing is based on extent of wound exudate and prevention of maceration of the wound edges. The absorbency of a foam dressing may need to be augmented by layering it with another dressing in the absorbent category.



References

1. Dumville, J.C., Deshpande, S., O'Meara, S., Speak K. Foam dressing for healing diabetic foot ulcers. The Cochrane Library. 2013. Available from: https://www.cochrane.org/CD009111/WOUNDS_foam-dressings-for-healing-foot-ulcers-in-people-with-diabetes
2. Wu, L., Norman, G., Dumville, J.C., O'Meara, S., Bell-Syer, S.E.M. Dressings for treating foot ulcers in people with diabetes: An overview of systematic reviews. The Cochrane Library. 2015. Available from: www.cochrane.org/CD010471/WOUNDS_dressings-treat-foot-ulcerspeople-diabetes.

Resource

1. Botros, M., Kuhnke, J., Embil, J., Goettl, K., Morin, C., Parsons, L., et al. Best practice recommendations for the prevention and management of diabetic foot ulcers. In: Foundations of Best Practice for Skin and Wound Management. A supplement of Wound Care Canada; 2017. 68 pp. Retrieved from: <https://www.woundscanada.ca/docman/public/health-care-professional/bpr-workshop/895-wc-bpr-prevention-and-management-of-diabetic-foot-ulcers-1573r1e-final/file>