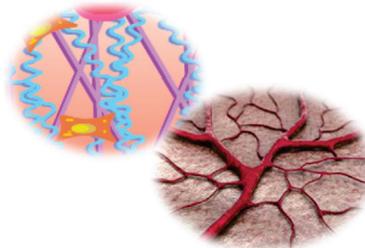
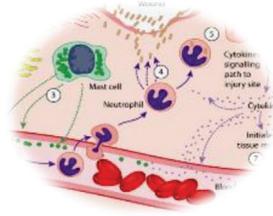


# Skin and Wound Care 2022, Updates to Current Best Practices for the Treatment and Prevention of Chronic Wounds

Presented by Ryan Dirks MS, PA, CWS  
CEO and CMO United Wound Healing



## Expected Wound Healing



**Hemostasis**

**Inflammation**

**Proliferation**

**Remodeling**

# Unexpected...



## Acute vs. Chronic Wounds

**Acute wound:** A wound with an etiology that occurs suddenly, either with or without intention, but then heals in a timely manner.

**Chronic wound:** a wound that has a slow progression through the healing phases, or shows delayed, interrupted or stalled healing due to intrinsic and extrinsic factors that impact on the individual and their wound.

- *A chronic, non-healing wound could be suggestive of a biofilm, providing holistic evaluation has excluded or corrected underlying pathologies such as ischemia.*



## Most Common Chronic Wound Etiologies



Pressure  
Ulcer/  
Injuries



Peripheral  
Arterial  
Disease



Venous  
Insufficiency



Diabetic  
Neuropathic  
Foot  
Ulcers



Lymphedema

## Other Frequently Encountered Wounds



Moisture  
Associated  
Skin  
Damage



Deep Tissue  
Pressure  
Injury



Kennedy  
Terminal  
Ulcer  
(KTU)

AKA  
Skin Failure



Medical  
Adhesive  
Related Skin  
Injury  
(MARS)



Medical  
Device Related  
Pressure Injury

Must be  
staged and  
reported on  
the MDS

# Other Frequently Encountered Wounds



## Surgical Dehiscence

Infection

Poor closing technique

Too much strain on incision by patient

## Skin Tears

Can be partial or full-thickness injuries

Considered traumatic wound

## Atypical Wounds

Host of different etiologies often associated with autoimmune diseases

## Cancer Wounds

Fungating wound depicted here

# Mixed Etiologies



## Arterial and Venous

## Venous Insufficiency and Lymphedema

AKA Phlebolymphe<sup>d</sup>ema

## Pressure and Arterial

## Moisture Associate Skin Damage (MASD) and Pressure

# Autoimmune/Atypical Wounds



## Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Beware of  
Pathergy  
Effect



## Vasculitis

Inflammation  
and  
destruction of  
blood vessels



## Pemphigus Vulgaris

Auto-  
antibodies  
against  
some part of  
epidermis  
Oral lesions  
seen 1st



## Bullous Pemphigoid

Most  
common  
auto-  
immune  
dermatosis  
(Allergy to  
one's own



## Bullous Diabeticorum

Spontaneous  
non-  
inflammatory  
blistering  
unique to  
patients with  
diabetes

# Factors that Contribute to Wound Chronicity

## Time Driven

- Increased bacterial load
- Excessive proteases
  - Degraded
    - Growth factors
    - Matrix proteins
    - Cell surface receptors
- Prolonged inflammation
- Cellular senescence
- Inadequate / inappropriate treatment

## Patient Driven

- Diseases or conditions
  - Competing for oxygen or metabolic resources
- Medications
  - Steroids
  - Immunosuppressive agents
  - Chemotherapy
- Patient adherence
  - Diet/blood glucose
  - Smoking
  - Off-loading

# Evolution of Wound Care Treatments

- The oldest medical manuscript, a clay tablet, describes three healing principles: washing the wounds, making the plasters, and bandaging.
- The ancient Egyptians applied a paste of honey, grease, and lint into an open wound to remove skin and pus and encourage wound healing.
- The ancient Greeks focused more on cleanliness and washed wounds with clean water, vinegar, or wine. The Hippocratic Collection states, "For an obstinate ulcer, sweet wine, and many patients should be enough."
- The ancient Romans were the first to describe the four cardinal signs of inflammation: "rubor, tumor, calor, et dolor," meaning redness, swelling, heat, and pain.
- In the Middle Ages, the customary practice was to allow a wound to "rot a bit."
- Napoleon's surgeon, Dominique Jean Larrey, was the first physician to document the necessity for early amputation for any limb injury in which the limb could not be saved, by noting that early amputation would create a relatively clean and viable wound.
- Wound care has evolved from simple dressing changes to a board certified specialty.

# Modern Advancements in Wound Care

- In 1860, Joseph Lister published a report on the treatment of compound fractures with **carbolic acid**, a method known as the Lister Antiseptic System. Lister is also credited with the development of the first **wet-to-dry** dressing. In the mid-1800s, he used clean cotton batting soaked in carbolic acid to pack wounds. In 1890, Robert Wood Johnson, co-founder of Johnson & Johnson, began using the Lister Antiseptic System to develop gauze and wound dressings sterilized with dry heat, steam, and pressure.
- In the 1880s, textbooks on wound care began to stress the importance of **skin cleansing and removal of foreign matter**. Dr. Carl Reyher, a Russian military surgeon, was the first to recommend adding more extensive mechanical wound cleansing, which he termed "**debridement**."
- From 1909 to 1918, before and during World War I (WWI), it was common practice to apply **dry gauze packed with salt** to the wound bed. Toward the end of WWI, the **Carrel-Dakin method** of continuously infusing **hypochlorite solution** directly into gauze packed into the wound became a standard treatment in the British Army.
- In the late 19th century, metallic antiseptics were introduced. **Silver ceramic powder** was introduced in 1928, and the latest silver preparation of silver sulfadiazine became available in 1958.
- The 20th century brought about numerous changes in how we treat wounds. In the 1960s, George Winter<sup>12</sup> and Cameron Hinman and Howard Maibach<sup>13</sup> reported on the superior efficacy of a **moist wound healing technique**. This discovery led to a focus on creating and maintaining a moist wound healing environment through the use of **specialized dressings**.



# Wound Hygiene & Biofilm-Based Wound Care

## Overt (classical) Signs of Local Infection

- Erythema
- Local warmth
- Swelling
- Purulent discharge
- Delayed wound healing beyond expectations
- New or increasing pain
- Increasing malodor



# Covert Signs of Local Infection

- Hypergranulation tissue
- Bleeding, friable granulation
- Epithelial bridging and pocketing in granulation tissue
- Wound breakdown and enlargement
- Delayed wound healing beyond expectations
- New or increasing pain
- Increasing odor



# Modes of Bacterial Growth

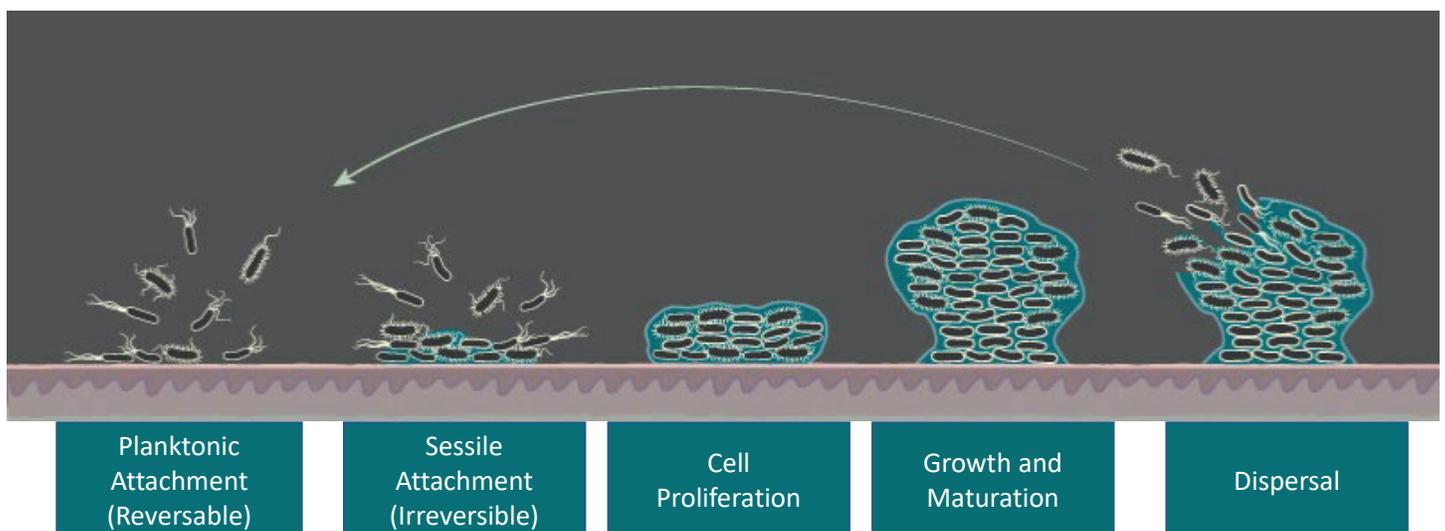
- Planktonic
  - Free floating
  - Antibiotics can destroy easier
  - Most antibiotic testing is on planktonic (wound cultures)
- Biofilms
  - Complex communities of microbes that adhere to solid surfaces
  - Embedded in an extracellular polysaccharide matrix

# Biofilm in a Nutshell

- Multiple species of microbes
  - Gm + and -, aerobes and anaerobes
  - Exudes film of extracellular polymeric substances (EPSs) composed of proteins, lipids, and polysaccharides.
  - Fungi are often found in wound biofilms
- Between 60-90% of chronic wounds contain biofilm versus only approximately 6% of acute wounds
- Can begin to form within 2 hours, and reform within 48-72 hours after removal

Phillips PL, et al. Biofilms Made Easy. Wounds International. 2010;1(3):1-6. [www.woundsinternational.com/media/issues/288/files/content\\_8851.pdf](http://www.woundsinternational.com/media/issues/288/files/content_8851.pdf). Accessed March 28, 2017.  
Hyang R, Li M, Gregory RL. Bacterial interactions in dental biofilm. Virulence;2011;2(5):435-444.

# Biofilm Development



# Biofilm-Based Wound Care

- Debridement is primary initial approach (remove the biofilm)
- Topical management (keep it from regrowing)
  - Antimicrobial cleansing
  - Antimicrobial dressings
    - Biofilm “busting” agents to disrupt biofilm matrix exposing bacteria making them more vulnerable

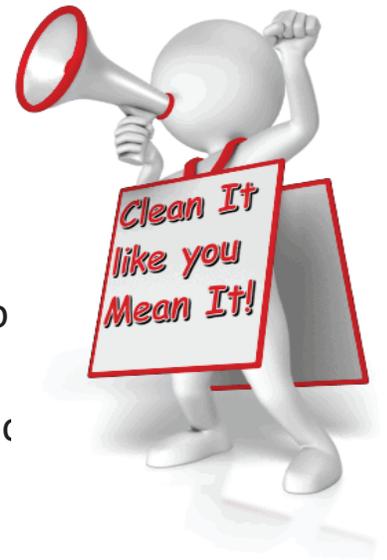


## Debridement

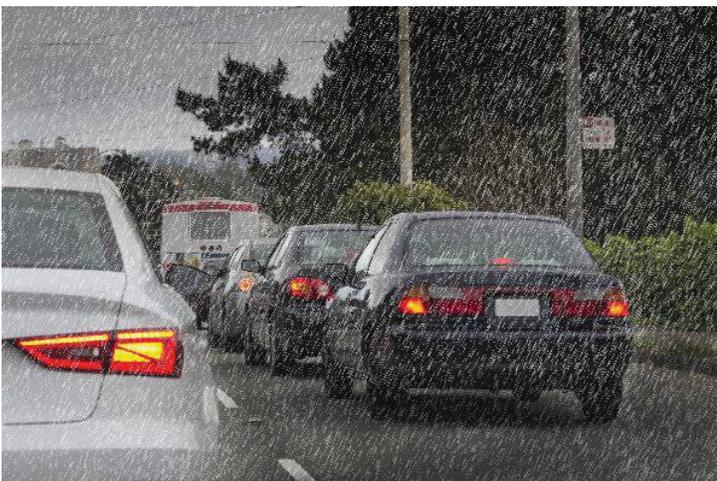
- Debridement is one of the most important treatment strategies against biofilms, but does not remove all biofilm, and therefore cannot be used alone
  - *Repeated debridement alone is unlikely to prevent biofilm regrowth*
  - *Effective topical antiseptic application within this time-dependent window can suppress biofilm reformation*
- In vitro data suggest that there is a window of opportunity for biofilm prevention following debridement of up to 24 hours when biofilms are susceptible to topical antiseptics and other treatments.

# Biofilm Based Wound Management

- Begins with wound hygiene!
  - Lessons from oral hygiene
- Even if the wound does not 'look' like it has biofilm wo must be a priority.
- Vigorously cleanse the skin and wound to the extent pr
- Debride when necessary and able
  - ***Include the edges***
- Continue with maintenance hygiene with each dressing change
- Decide how to cleanse and what to cleanse with



Consider this...



# Therapeutic Wound and Periwound Cleansing

- Wound cleansing is the use of fluids and/or devices to remove loosely adherent contaminants and devitalized material from the wound surface and wound edges<sup>1</sup>
- Promotion of skin cleansing of the periwound is considered part of completing a dressing change
- When cleansing the periwound skin, concentrate on the area that is 10–20 cm away from the wound edges, or that is covered by the dressing, whichever is larger<sup>2</sup>
- Use an antiseptic wash or surfactant for cleansing, if possible, and avoid cross-contamination<sup>2</sup>

1. Rodeheaver GT, Ratliff CR. Wound cleansing, wound irrigation, wound disinfection. In: Krasner DL, van Rijswijk L, eds. Chronic Wound Care: The Essentials e-Book. Malvern, PA: HMP; 2018:47–62. Available at <http://online.fliphtml5.com/zxoes/kzgg/> Accessed 5/19/2019.2. Murphy C, Atkin L, Swanson T, Tachi M, Tan YK, Vega de Ceniga M, Weir D, Wolcott R. International

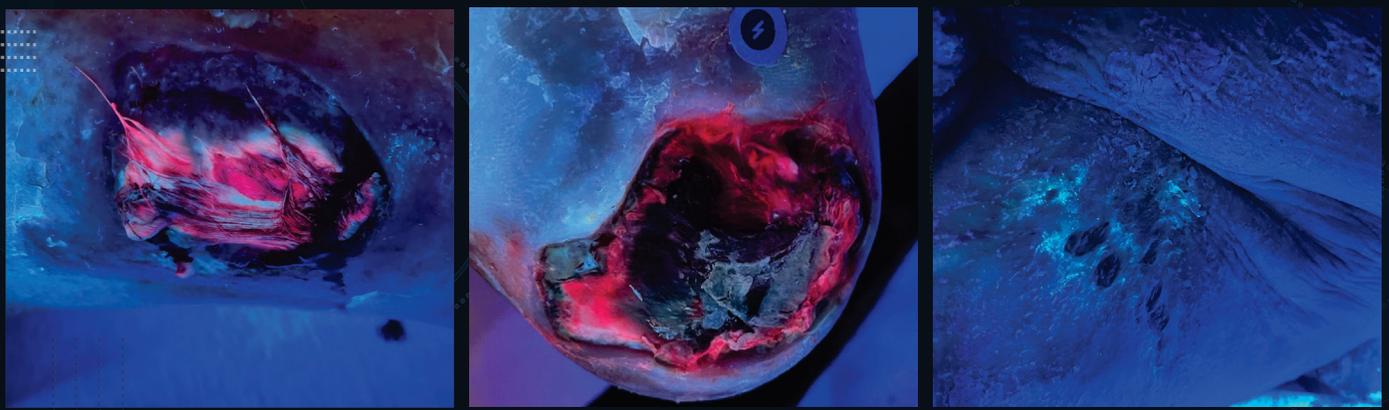
## Wound Cleansing

- Even if the wound does not ‘look’ like it has biofilm, wound cleansing must be a priority<sup>1</sup>
- Integral part of wound bed preparation<sup>2</sup>
  - Removes surface debris
  - Reduces bacterial load
  - Mitigates biofilm activity
- Challenge is the right balance
  - How to clean
  - What to clean with

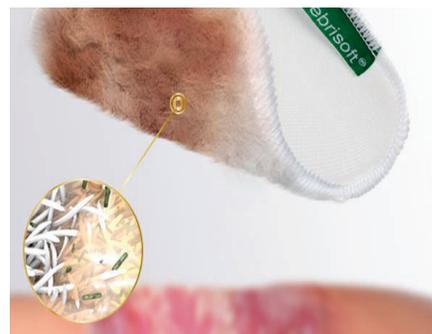


1. Murphy C, Atkin L, Swanson T, Tachi M, Tan YK, Vega de Ceniga M, Weir D, Wolcott R. International consensus document. Defying hard-to-heal wounds with an early antibiofilm intervention

# Images from real-time bacterial fluorescence imaging

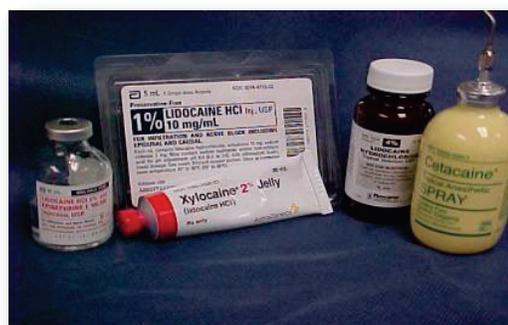


# Mechanical Cleansing

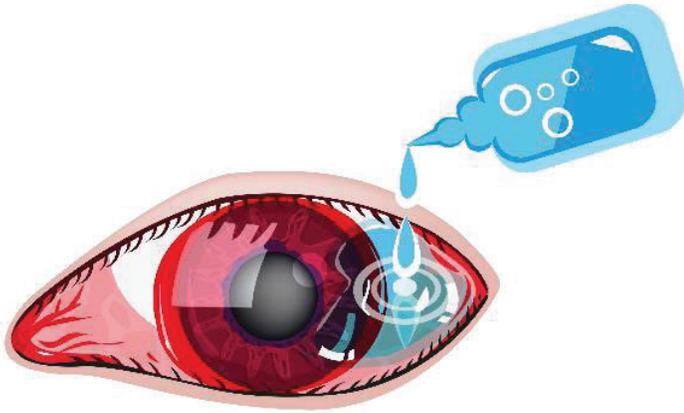


## Plan for the Pain

- To assume we can provide care without causing some pain is unrealistic
- Nursing pre-medicate patient
- Use topical anesthetics
  - 4% lidocaine cream is OTC and helps soften slough



# What to Clean With



## Wound Cleansing

- Commercial cleansers
  - Enhanced wound cleaning due to surface active agents, which break the bonds of foreign bodies on wound surface
  - Strength of their chemical reactivity directly proportional to their cleansing capacity and toxicity to cells

***Skin cleansers (those for incontinence) should not be used to cleanse an open wound***



# What to Clean With?

- Isotonic Saline (0.9%)
  - No impact on microbes and biofilm
  - Best used with monofilament or gauze scrubbing
- Potable (tap) water
  - 2012 Cochrane Review concluded **no difference in healing or infection rates in using saline vs tap water**
  - *Concern of water borne pathogens such as pseudomonas, and known growth of biofilm in pipes*
  - No impact on microbes and biofilm

Wound cleansing, topical antiseptics and wound healing. Atiyeh B, Dibo S, Hayek S. *Int Wound J.* 2009;6(6):420-430.

# What to Clean With?

- **Polyhexinide / Polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB) 0.1%**
  - One commercially available cleanser contains polyhexanide and betaine, a surfactant, to lift microbes and debris and suspend them in solution to prevent wound recontamination
  - Has an increased ability to penetrate difficult-to-remove coatings, lifting debris, bacteria, and biofilm from the wound
  - Broad spectrum of activity against bacteria, viruses, and fungi
  - No evidence of toxicity or resistance
  - Commonly used with NPWT
- **MRSA Killer**
  - To evaluate activity of polyhexanide and betain cleanser on MRSA and biofilms in a partial thickness porcine wound model, against untreated control
  - Significant reduction of MRSA at 48 and 72 hours (P<0.05) compared to the other treatment groups. Reduction of MRSA biofilm was only demonstrated using PHMB; saline solutions failed to reduce MRSA counts

Wolcott R, Fletcher J. The role of wound cleansing in the management of wounds. *Wounds International.* 2014;1(1):25-31

Perez R, Davies SC, Kaehn K. Effect of different wound rinsing solutions on MRSA biofilm in a porcine wound model. *Wound Management* 2010; 4(2): 44-8

# What to Clean With?

- Hypochlorous Acid (Vashe)
  - Broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity
  - Non-irritating, non-sensitizing, non-toxic
  - Has rapid antimicrobial activity at concentrations safe for human cells
- In vitro study comparing HOCL, 0.05% chlorhexidine wound cleanser (CWS) and 1% and 10% povidone iodine (PI) against staph aureus and pseudomonas biofilm found similar reduction in biofilm with less cytotoxicity than PI and CWS

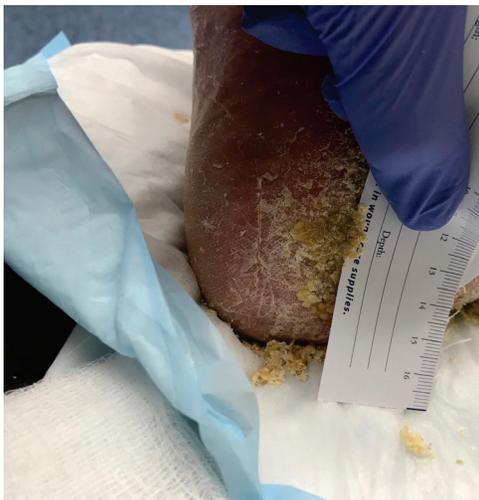
Wolcott R, Fletcher J. The role of wound cleansing in the management of wounds. *Wounds International*. 2014;1(1):25-31. Day A, et al. . Disruption of Biofilms and Neutralization of Bacteria Using Hypochlorous Acid Solution: An In Vivo and In Vitro Evaluation. *Adv Skin Wound Care*. 2017;30(12):543-551. doi:10.1097/01.ASW.0000526607.80113.66

# What to Clean With?

- Acetic Acid (Vinegar Solution)
  - Shown effectiveness against many Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms, especially *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
  - Does not kill bacteria, creates an acidic environment unfavorable for bacterial growth
  - Acetic acid in 1% and 5% concentrations has been widely used in an attempt to reduce pH
  - Effective against odor
  - In vivo studies have shown safety for short periods (4-7 days) to control bacterial levels without compromising the healing process



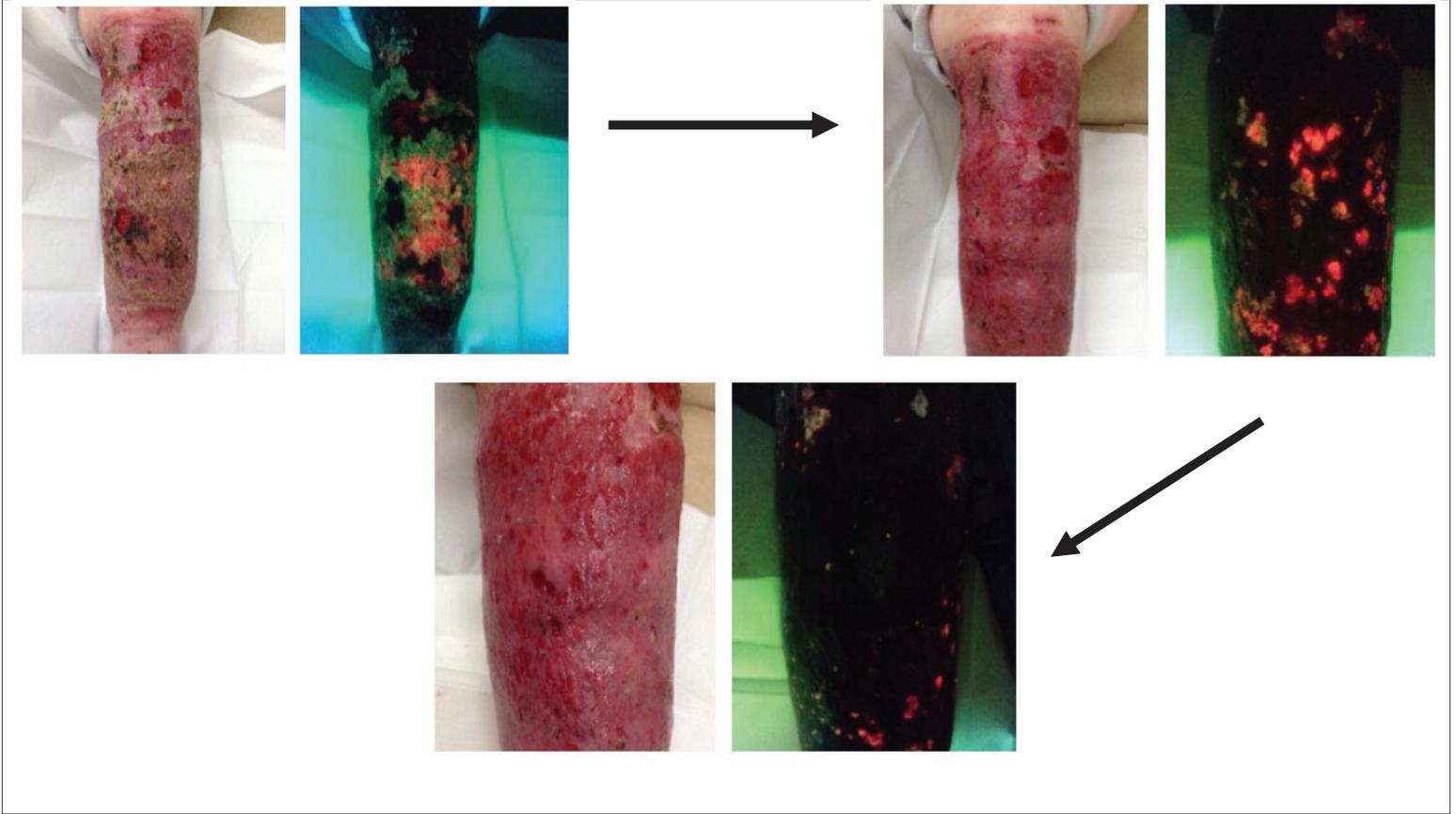
Nagoba B, et al. Acidic environment and wound healing: A review. *Wounds*. 2015;27(1):5-11.



Does This Look Familiar?

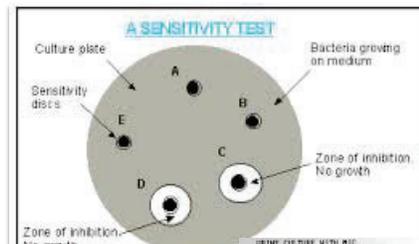
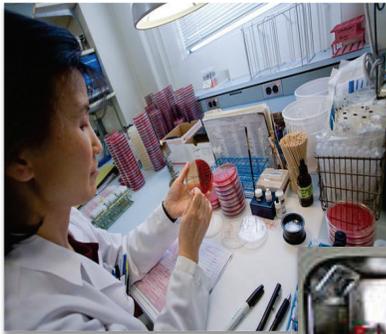
## Descaling Hyperkeratotic Skin





Identification and topical treatment options  
for Biofilm

# Advancements in the Identification and Diagnosis of Biofilms and Infections



URINE CULTURE WITH MIC

• SOURCE: URINE-CYSTO  
 STATUS: FINAL  
 COMPLETED CULTURE RESULTS  
 ESCHERICHIA COLI - GREATER THAN 100,000 ORGANISMS PER ML

SUSCEPTIBILITY RESULTS:  
 S = Susceptibility I = Intermediate R = Resistant  
 Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) expressed in µg/mL

ORGANISM(S): EHEC1

AMINOGLYCOSIDES	45 <=2
AMPICILLIN	48 >=32
AMPCIPENEM	48 >=32
AMIKACIN	48 >=16
CEFTAZIDIME	10 <=4
CEFTAZIDIME	45 <=40
CEFTIOXID	45 <=1
CEFTRIAXONE	10 <=8
CEFTAZIDIME	48 >=32
CHLORAMPHENICOL	45 <=4
CLINDAMYCIN	48 >=16
DOXYCYCLINE	3 >=16
ERYTHROMYCIN	48 >=16
GENTAMICIN	48 >=16
TRIZONA	5 <=4
MISOSTROMIDIN	45 <=32
OFLOXACIN	8 >=8
PIPERACILLIN	48 >=16
TEICoplaniclin	48 >=16
TETRACYCLINE	48 >=16
TIGECYCLINE	45 <=2
TRIMETHOPIM	48 >=32

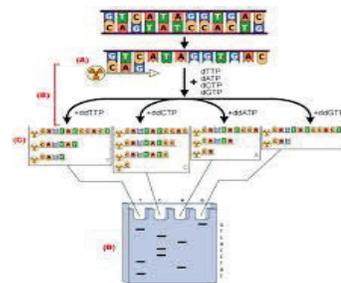
## Medicine: Diagnose & Treat

- The more accurate your diagnostic information the better your treatment decisions



Traditional Cultures  
Grow the microbes

or



NGS  
Extracts the DNA

# DNA Analysis (PCR & NGS) vs. Traditional Cultures

51 Chronic Wounds: Parallel Samples

PCR + NGS	Traditional Culture
48/51 Staph Identified	28/51 Staph Identified
32/51 Pseud Identified	8/51 Pseud Identified

DNA Sequencing Outperformed Traditional Cultures

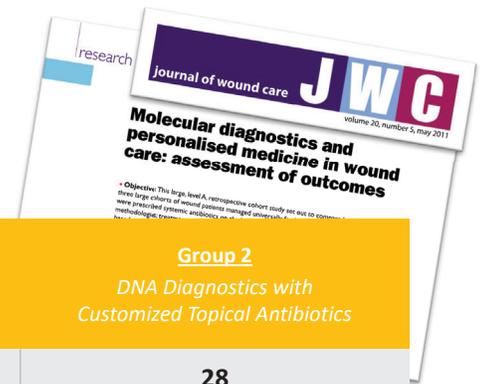
**DNA Sequencing Identified 145 Species – Culture Identified 14**

## Cost Comparison

Traditional Culture	PCR and NGS
Basic C&S = \$50 - \$70 • Does not include anaerobic testing or fungal	PCR/NGS = \$199
Anaerobic = \$160	Included
Fungal = \$655	Included
<b>TOTAL COST = \$855</b>	<b>MAX COST TO PATIENT/Facility = \$199</b>



## Wound care study: Median number of days to heal by type



Wound Type	Standard of Care Traditional Culture with Oral Antibiotics	Group 1 DNA Diagnostics with Oral Antibiotics	Group 2 DNA Diagnostics with Customized Topical Antibiotics
Pressure Ulcer	N/A	107	28
Diabetic Foot Ulcer	168	84	32
Non-Healing Surgical Wound	176	75	44
Traumatic Abscess	39	33	14
Venous Leg Ulcer	177	98	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>77 (p&lt;0.001)</b>	<b>28 (p&lt;0.001)</b>

## Topical Antibiofilm Treatments

- PHMB Containing Products (Biakos Gel)
- Blastx
- Lipogel (with or without Rx)
- Slow Release Cadexamer Iodine (Iodasorb/flex) – *must be used for less than 30 days due to cytotoxicity*
- Hypochlorous acid (Vashe)
- Hypochlorite acid (Dakins, Anicept)- should be used as last resort due to cytotoxicity

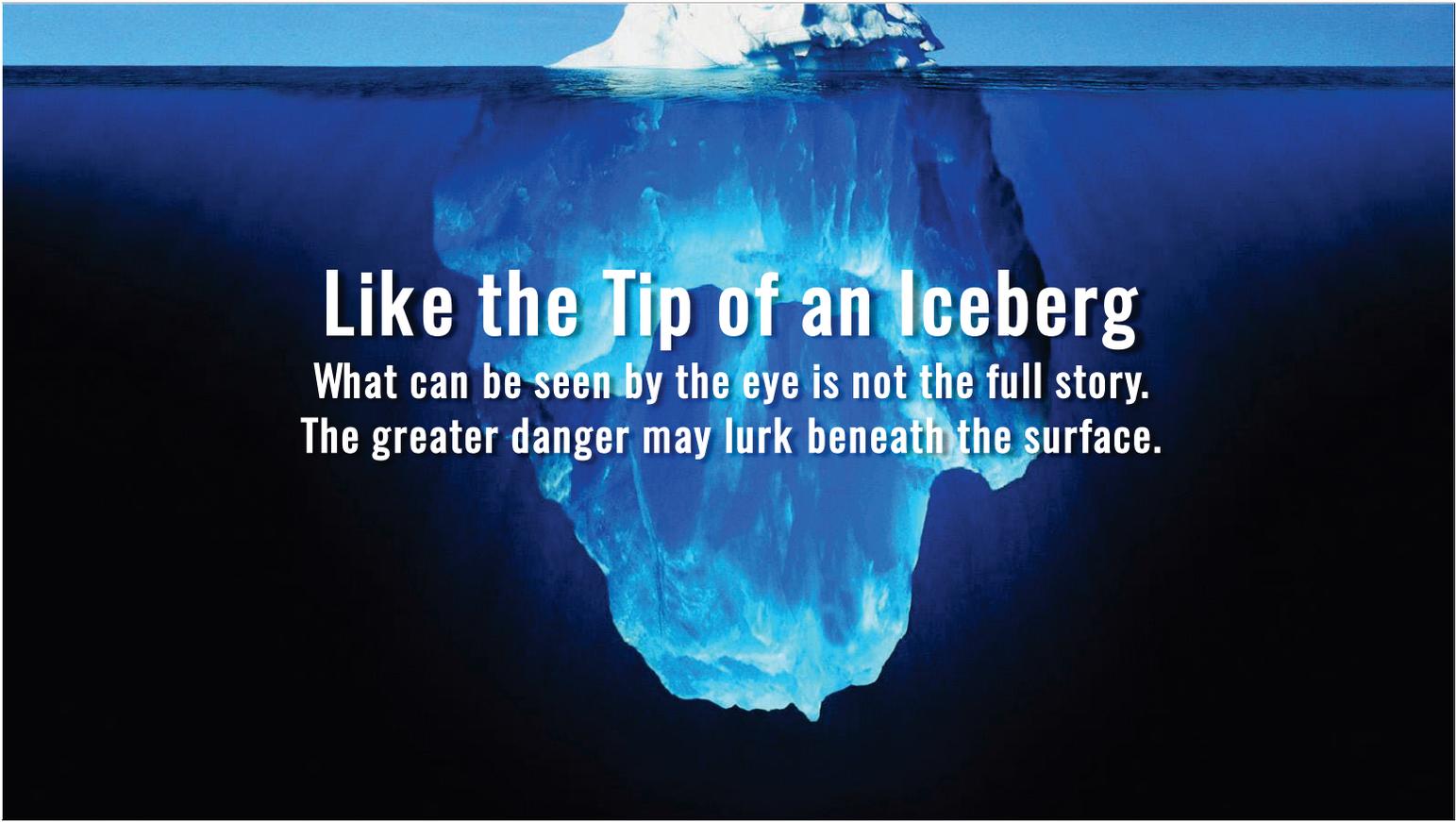
# Topical Products not Proven Effective Against Biofilm

- Medical (manuka) honey
- Silver containing products (foams, gels, alginates)
- Hydrofera blue products

## Economics of Treating Biofilm

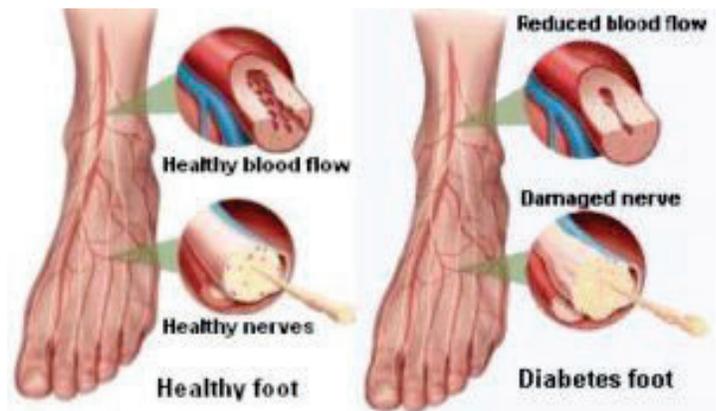
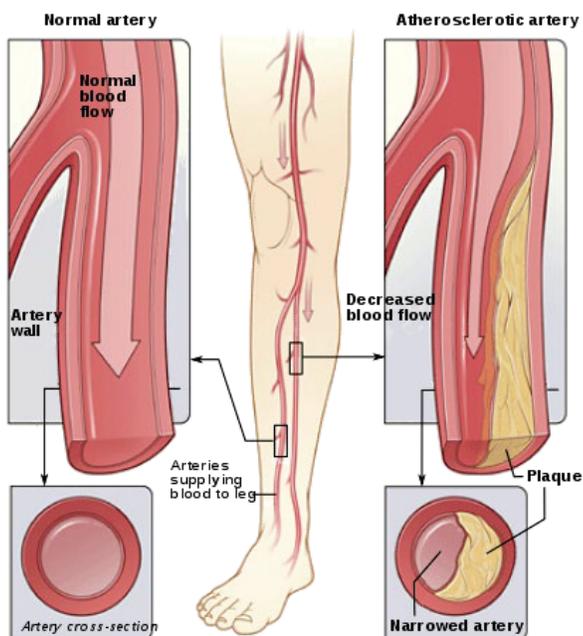
Product	Cost/average application	Considerations
Cadexamer Iodine (Iodasorb/flex)	\$10.00	Becomes cytotoxic with prolonged use
PHMB (Biakos gel)	\$4.00	Non cytotoxic
Lipogel	\$2.50	
Lipogel + Antibiotics/Antifungals	\$5.83	Customized by compound Rx

Cleanser	Cost/8 oz bottle	
PHNB (Biakos Spray)	\$39.50	
Hypochlorous acid (Vashe)	\$29.49	
Wound Cleanser (generic with surfactant)	\$4-10.00	

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The small tip is above the water surface, while the much larger, jagged mass is submerged below. The text is overlaid on the submerged part of the iceberg.

**Like the Tip of an Iceberg**  
What can be seen by the eye is not the full story.  
The greater danger may lurk beneath the surface.

## Macro vs. Micro Vascular Disease

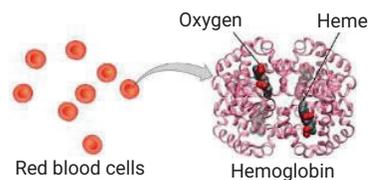


# NIR Imaging

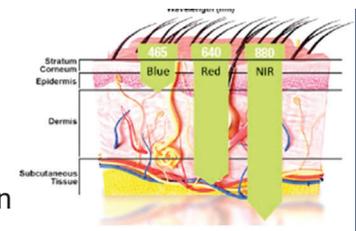


## The Science

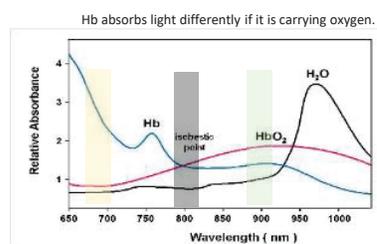
**1.** Oxygen in hemoglobin



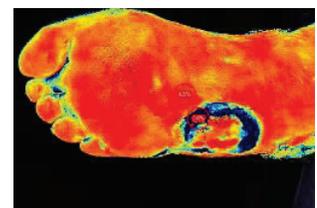
**2.** NIR passes through skin



**3.** NIR is absorbed



**4.** Data processing

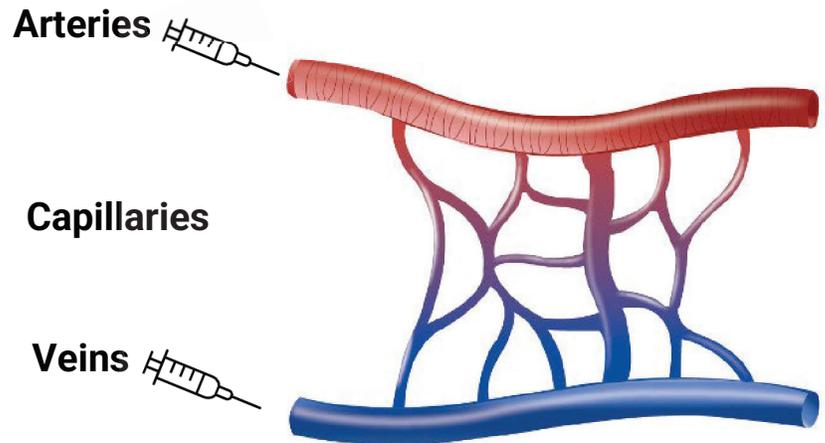


Near-infrared light provides a non-invasive, comprehensive measure of the hemoglobin oxygen saturation of the tissue.

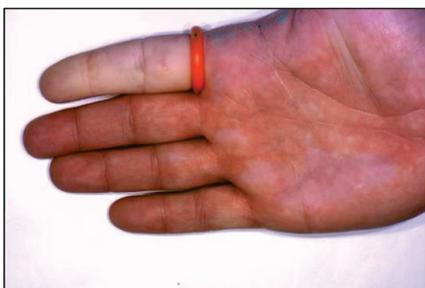
# Near-Infrared Spectroscopy

Measuring hemoglobin oxygenation at the tissue/cellular interface ( $S_tO_2$ )

- Provides a non-invasive measure of the content of oxygen bound to hemoglobin in the blood just below the surface of the tissue being imaged

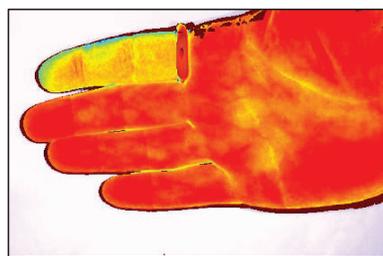


## Snapshot<sub>NIR</sub> Captured Views

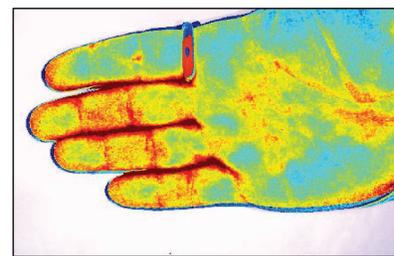


Color or "RGB" view

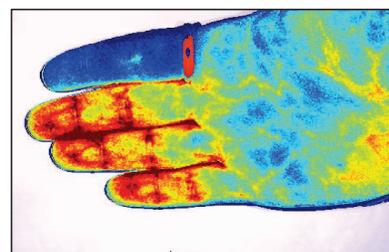
$$S_tO_2 (\%) = \frac{\text{Oxy Hemoglobin}}{\text{Total Hemoglobin}} \times 100$$



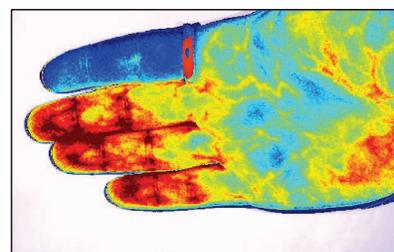
$S_tO_2$



Deoxygenated Hemoglobin

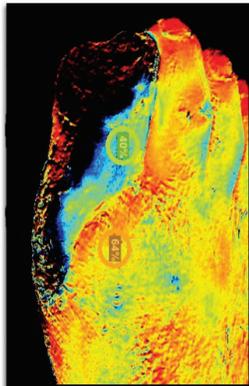


Total Hemoglobin

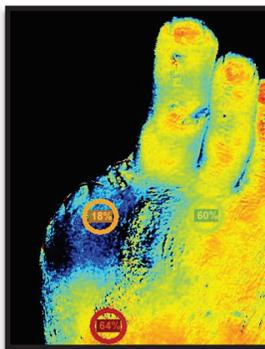


Oxygenated Hemoglobin

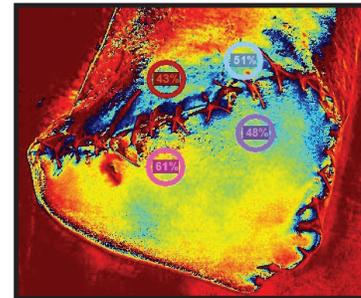
# Surgical Decisions



- History of arterial disease
- Developed a gangrenous great toe



- Great toe amputation
- NIR Image shows flap at risk while clinical image appears normal



- Initial amputation demonstrated continued failure, which led to secondary amputation

**COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?**

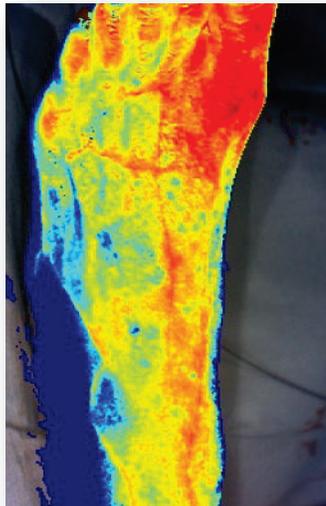
# Vascular Intervention

*Time is tissue* with early detection

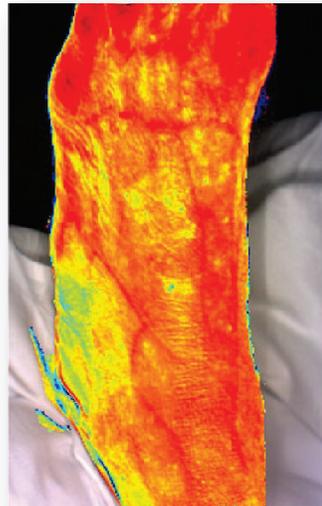
~ 138,000 peripheral vascular interventions were performed annually (2000-2011)<sup>1</sup>.  
**Imagine what that number is now!**



Clinical

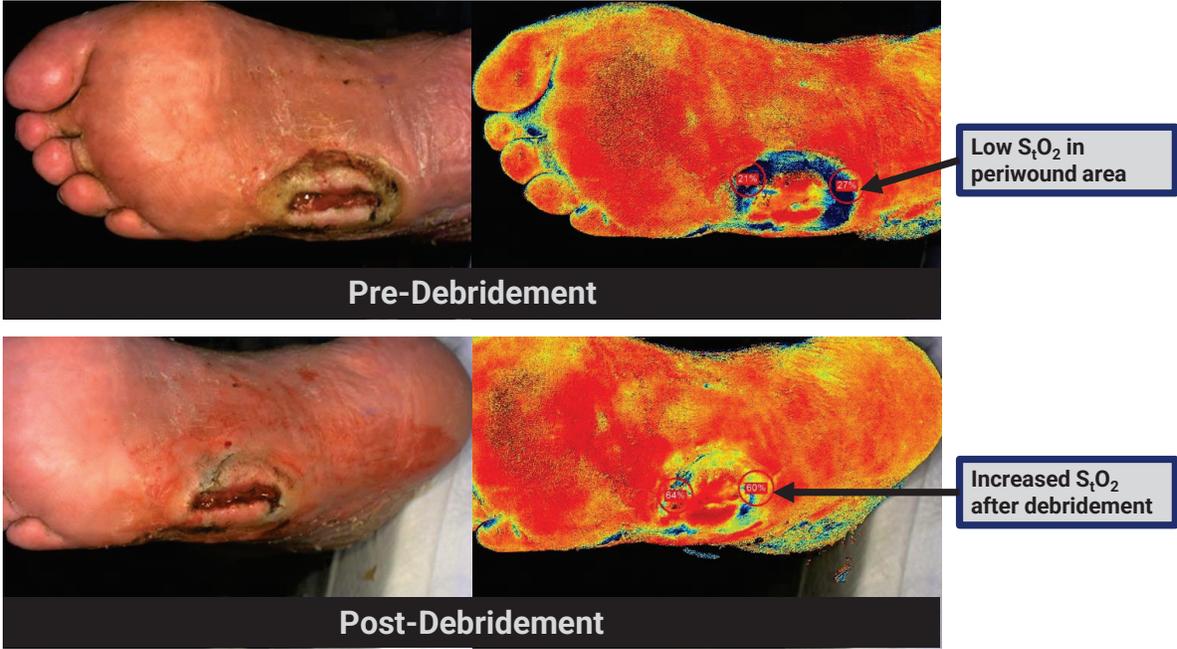


Pre-Intervention

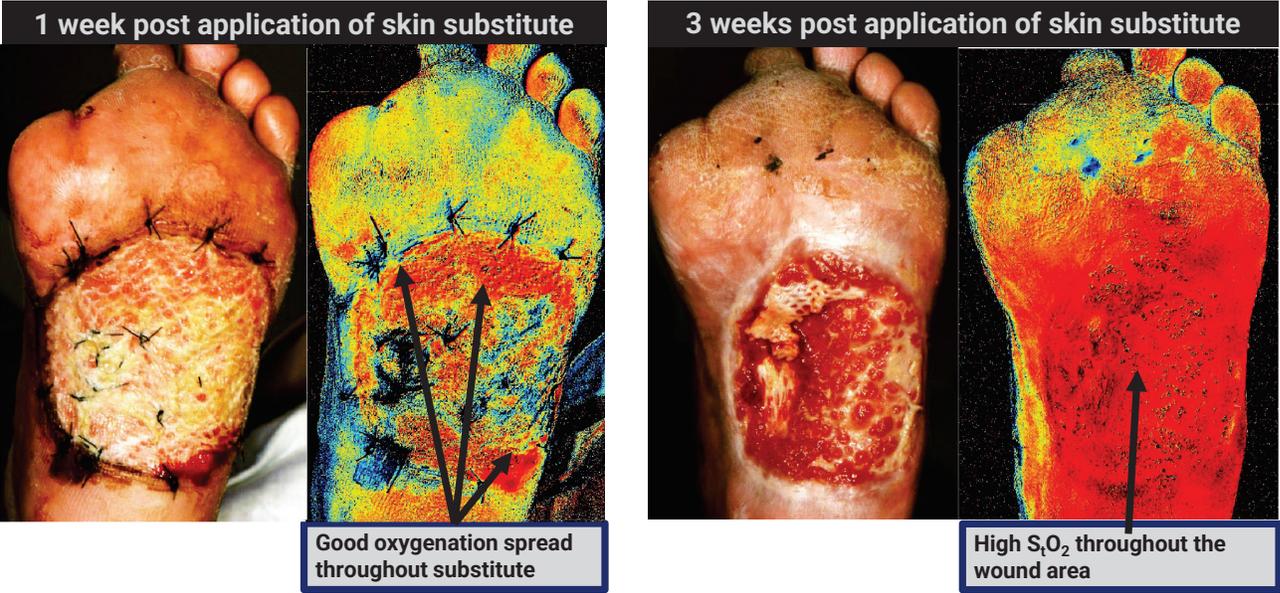


Post-Intervention

# Wound Care



# Wound Care



Future  
Applications  
of NIR  
Imaging in  
Long Term  
Care

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Early detection of deep  
tissue pressure injuries

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Determining “avoidable  
vs unavoidable”

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Is it really a pressure  
injury?



## Summary

Chronic wounds need our collective efforts to heal (Team-Centered Wound Care)

We need to intervene early (prevention and treatment of biofilm, oxygenation and perfusion) to get the wound to a state of readiness to heal; but it doesn't stop there.

Continuous diligence in reducing the potential for stalling is essential

- Presume biofilm presence on every chronic wound
- Suspect reduced blood flow in wounds not healing
- Debride often; address the edges to prevent rolling
- Practice good wound hygiene

*Clean it like you mean it!*