APWH
Academy of Physicians in Wound Healing

DrySee®

Hydro-Chromatic Technology
Clinical & Market Survey

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DrySee® Hydro-Chromatic Technology Survey

Introduction

Effective wound management is essential for promoting healing, minimizing complications, and addressing quality of life implications. This survey was designed to document current dressing practices and key issues associated with moisture/exudate management in practice. The goal is to assess the need for, and perceived utility of, a convenient moisture-detecting technology that can be embedded in wound dressings to provide visible assessment of pad saturation or external moisture ingress.

A total of 157 healthcare professionals participated in the survey, representing a diverse range of practice environments, including:

- Outpatient Clinics (34%)
- Home Health Agencies (20%)
- Long-term Care Facilities (18%)
- Additional settings, such as private practice, hospice, and education, made up the difference.

The respondent group primarily manages chronic wounds such as diabetic foot ulcers, venous leg ulcers, and pressure injuries, with an average of 64% of cases being chronic wounds.

The survey confirms common issues related to dressing moisture-related problems and supports the adoption of strategies to improve dressing selection, change timing, and the adoption of an innovative wound management technology to enhance healing outcomes.

Executive Summary

- **Practice Settings:** Most respondents are based in outpatient wound clinics (34%), followed by home health (20%), and long-term care (18%). The diverse settings reflect the widespread nature of wound care delivery.

- **Wound Types:** Respondents were active in the treatment of chronic wounds such as diabetic foot ulcers, venous leg ulcers, and pressure injuries (64%), and acute/post-op (21%), traumatic, and burns (45%).

- **Dressing Change Practices:** Respondents stated that current decision-making relies on fixed schedules, visual inspection, or leakage. A common observation was that the timing of dressing changes is frequently less than optimal, with about 36% occurring prematurely and 37% past due.

- **Operational Challenges:** The leading challenges include edge seal failure (26%), moisture-associated skin damage (24%), and dressing oversaturation (20%), all of which can hinder healing and increase patient discomfort. Staffing time, premature dressing changes, and patient confidence in their dressings were picked by 26% of respondents.

- **Moisture and Adherence (Compliance) Concerns:** Moisture-related skin damage and seal failures are the most often reported problems, followed by dressing oversaturation and premature dressing changes. All respondents expressed some moisture-related issues.

- **Barriers to adoption:** Cost/Budget approval, false positives or negatives, and excessive staff training needs would represent barriers to adopting moisture-indicating dressings.

- **Desired Outcomes:** Practitioners prioritize reducing healing times, preventing complications, and decreasing dressing change frequency, aims that align with improved patient outcomes and resource efficiency.

Detailed Findings

Practice Environment and Wound Profile

- Respondents work primarily in outpatient clinics (34%)
- Home health (20%)
- Long-term care facilities/SNFs (18%)
- Wound types managed are predominantly chronic (64%), with post-operative wounds representing about 21%

This diversity suggests tailored approaches across different care settings.

Dressing Change Decision-Making

- Most clinicians determine dressing changes based on visual cues (15%).
- Leakage or strike-through prompts dressing changes in 12-13% of cases.
- A significant portion still relies on fixed schedules (21%).

- Current practice suggests 36% of dressings are being changed too early, risking unnecessary disruption, extra nursing expense, and higher treatment costs.
- About 37% of dressings are changed too late, increasing the risk of maceration and infection.

Top 3 Challenges in Wound Management

The most prevalent operational challenges reported were:

- Edge seal failure (26%), particularly in incontinence and bathing scenarios
- Moisture-associated skin damage (24%)
- Dressing oversaturation (20%)

These issues affect wound healing, increase the risk of infection, and impact patient comfort

Moisture and Adherence Issues

- Moisture-related skin damage was reported as the top moisture management problem (38%).
- Seal failures related to bathing or incontinence are the second most common issue, at 26%.
- Dressing oversaturation was 3rd at 20%.

These results suggest there is a recognized need for improved moisture detection technology to address these specific clinical issues.

Barriers to Technology Adoption

- Cost and budgeting concerns (30%) would provide a significant barrier to adopting any new wound care technologies, which may initially involve additional expenses.
- The potential for patient misunderstanding or confusion (21%) would limit adoption. Dressing should, therefore, provide intuitive, reliable interpretation to address both patient and clinician perceptions.
- False alarms (17%) that result in needless dressing changes and extra costs are viewed as potential barriers.
- Concern over potential significant staff training is high and would need to be assuaged. Reduction of training time becomes a feature.

Perceived Benefits and Future Priorities

Practitioners see the greatest value in innovations that:

- Reduce healing times (26%)
- Decrease complications (23%)
- Minimize dressing change frequency (21%)

These priorities highlight a collective focus on efficiency, patient safety, and resource savings, especially in self-care and skilled nursing facility (SNF/LTC) settings.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This survey summarizes persistent challenges faced by clinicians regarding dressings that become overly saturated or fail prematurely. These issues directly impair wound healing, increase patient discomfort, and elevate the risk of infection. The data also reveals that a significant portion of dressings are changed either too early or too late, often driven by difficulties in accurately assessing moisture levels and adherence.

The data suggest a significant need for advanced technologies capable of reliably indicating moisture status, enabling clinicians to make timely, informed dressing decisions. Moisture-indicating solutions such as DrySee® Hydro-Chromatic technology have the potential to serve these needs by providing clear, visual cues on dressing saturation levels and seal integrity. This could significantly reduce unnecessary or delayed dressing changes, promote optimal healing environments, and improve overall patient outcomes.

Implementing moisture-sensing innovations aligns with practitioners' priorities to shorten healing times, reduce complications, and optimize resource utilization. Given the widespread operational challenges and adherence issues identified in the survey, adopting technologies like DrySee® Hydro-Chromatic technology could improve wound management efficiency and effectiveness and provide a valuable product differentiation to support the adoption of a wound care dressing line utilizing the technology.

Recommendations:

- Adopt moisture-indicating technology, such as DrySee® Hydro-Chromatic, that provides real-time, visual feedback on moisture status to support timely dressing changes.
- Use the technology to advance the topic of moisture-associated needs and issues amongst wound care practitioners.
- Provide a line of products that clearly addresses these needs vs competitor products.
- Create training/education packages to highlight advantages and introduce new Standard Operating Procedures based on improved moisture management.

By embracing these innovations, dressing producers can better address the practical and clinical challenges revealed by this survey, leading to improved wound healing success rates, higher patient satisfaction, and significant features and benefits to stand out from competitors.