

ABSTRACT

Larva Debridement Therapy in Wound Treatment

Fadime Gök [*] Gülbanu Zencir [**]

Background: This compilation intended to examine the history of larva debridement therapy in chronic wounds.

Materials and Method: Studies that focused on larva debridement therapy in wound treatment were investigated and findings from these studies were presented.

Findings: Larva debridement therapy (LDT) is the treatment in which Lucilia sericata larvaes clean out the infected tissues on the surface of the wound in suppurative skin infections. The larvaes in the wounds clean out the necrotic tissue within the wound without hurting the affected human or animal. Baron Larrey and Joseph Jones were the first physicians to use larvae for treatment purposes. The first scientific study in the field was conducted by Bear in 1931. American surgeons widely used LDT to treat bone and soft tissue infections between 1930-1940. While interest towards LDT decreased with the advent of antibiotics, this method became popular again in 1990's to treat non-healing wounds. LDT is successfully used to treat pressure ulcer, venous stasis ulcer, temporal mastoiditis, Fournier's gangrene, necrosis tumor masses and other soft tissue wounds independent of the underlying disease.
It is very difficult to differentiate between dead and necrotic tissues. Larvae enzymes disinfect the wound by softening the dead tissue over the wound. At the same time, they secrete large amounts of proteolytic enzyme, antibacterial materials to simulate the formation of granulation. Studies in this field demonstrate that using LDT in necrotic wounds before surgical debridement facilitates the discrimination of of tissue from the necrotic tissue during the procedure.

Result: Larva Debridement Therapy, was approved in U.S. by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2004. It is suggested that nurses should take this therapy method in their agendas to treat wounds since nursing care is crucial in wound healing.

Key words: Wound, wound treatment, larva debridement

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[*] Pamukkale University Faculty of Health Sciences, Nursing Department, Surgical Diseases Nursing, Denizli, Turkey
[**] Pamukkale University Faculty of Health Sciences, Nursing Department, Principles of Nursing, AD Denizli, Turkey

Presenting author details

Full name: PhD. Fadime GÖK

Contact number: +90 258 296 43 49, gsm: +90 535 976 84 62

Pamukkale University Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, 20200, Denizli/TURKEY

Biography

I am 48 years old. I worked as a clinician and manager nurse for about 15 years. I started my academic studies at Ege University. At the same time, I am working Pamukkale University Faculty of Health Science, Nursing Department (Surgical Diseases of Nursing) as a PhD. I have more than ten published papers in different journals.