

AT A GLANCE: LARVAE DEBRIDEMENT THERAPY

Who does this information apply to?

All registered healthcare and training healthcare professionals using larvae debridement therapy within OUH NHS Foundation Trust.

TOP TIPS:

1. Larvae will drown if too much fluid is present
2. If applied to body surface areas which are normally associated with pressure, nurse off that area for the duration of treatment to prevent the larvae being damaged
3. Ensure secondary dressing are NOT occlusive
4. If the patient complains of pain or discomfort consider stopping the LDT

What are the key points?

Major surgical debridement can carry increased risk with patients who have other significant co-morbidities. Larval Debridement Therapy (LDT) is a form of bio surgical debridement using the green bottle fly *Lucilla Sericata* to remove slough, dead or devitalised tissue from the wound bed which will encourage granulation tissue, reduce bioburden and Larvae can also be used to maintain a clean wound after debridement if a particular wound is considered prone to sloughing. Debridement is considered a beneficial component of wound management as appropriate debridement undertaken early is likely to accelerate healing, improving patient health and wellbeing, and reduces the cost of chronic wound management for the National Health Service. The larvae feed by a process of digesting their food outside their body by secreting enzymes to breakdown devitalised tissue, they do not digest living tissue.

Each patient should be assessed appropriately for the indications for use following a full wound assessment the effect on comfort, odour control, type and location of wound acceptability of the patient and total cost.

Equipment required by the 'handler':

- Plastic apron
- non-sterile gloves
- sterile dressing pack
- larvae in transit container containing application instructions
- Zinc based barrier cream or hydrocolloid dependant on Biobag or Free Range larvae
- saline
- gauze
- bandage or blue/yellow line bandage
- scissors and tape.

Procedure

- Order larvae via the pharmacy department by 2pm the day before therapy is required
- Consent should be obtained from the patient prior to Larvae Debridement Therapy
- Clean your hands (see the Trust Infection Prevention and Control policy).
- Set up a dressing trolley with required equipment
- Wear non-sterile examination gloves and a plastic apron.
- Cleanse the skin with sterile water to remove any gel, exudate and debris to promote effectiveness of the debridement of the wound.
- Apply larvae as per written instructions and apply moistened gauze swab to keep the larvae dampened. Change daily during the treatment period 3-4 day application and ensure larvae alive by checking movement.
- Check secondary dressing daily and change if saturated and reapply dampened gauze.
- After the third day of application remove and reassess the wound; further application of LDT may be required up to three treatments
- Dispose of the used larvae in a container following procedures for contaminated biological waste products (See Trust Infection Prevention and Control policy).

http://biomonde.com/attachments/article/7/BM110_05_0713_IP.pdf