Transparent Gel Dressing Used to Simplify Skin Evaluation and Prevent Pressure Injury

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BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

- Foam dressings are often used to prevent pressure injuries in areas of the body where there is continual contact such as the sacrum, heel, hip, spinal process and neck.[1]
- The repetitive removal of adhesive foam dressings can weaken the skin and increase the risk of medical adhesive-related skin injury (MARSI).[2]
- The use of a transparent liquid cyanoacrylate barrier film can protect skin at risk from friction and reduce the risk of pressure injuries (PI).[3]

PURPOSE

To evaluate a transparent gel dressing (TGD)* for the prevention of pressure injuries and MARSI in patients with skin at risk, to improve patient satisfaction, and to reduce nursing staff time.

METHODS

- Twenty patients in this case series were in acute care facilities and at high-risk for pressure injuries and/or MARSI. Most patients were susceptible to fecal and urine incontinence.
- Prevention of PI to the sacrum, hip, and body areas in contact with medical devices were evaluated for 1-3 days following application of the TGD.

INTERVENTION

- Application of the TGD required the following steps:
  1) Clean the skin with water and dry thoroughly.
  2) Apply a skin barrier spray.
  3) Wait for 30 seconds for drying of the skin barrier spray.
  4) Apply the transparent dressing by removing the liner and applying to the skin.
  5) Assess the condition of the skin daily.
  6) Capture images on Day 1, 2, and 3

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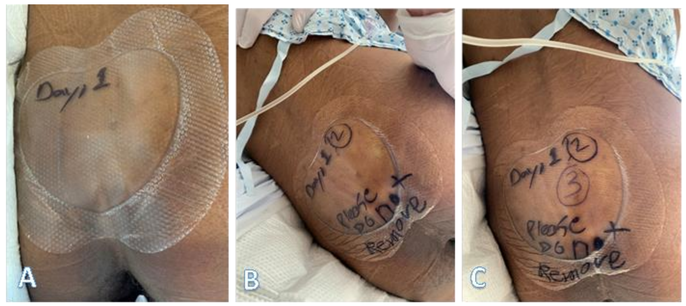
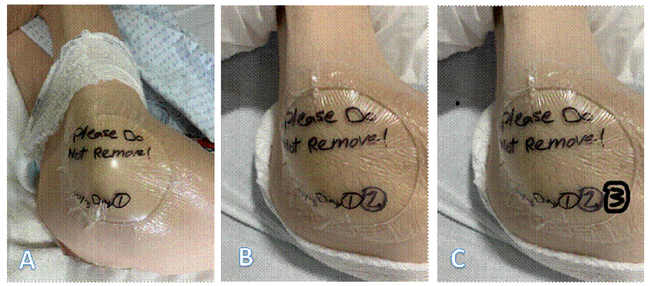
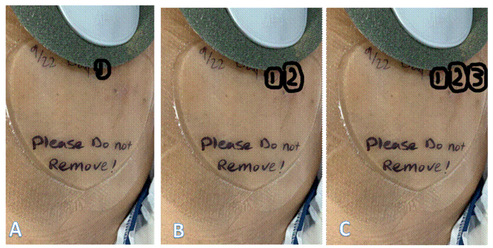
CASE STUDY IMAGES



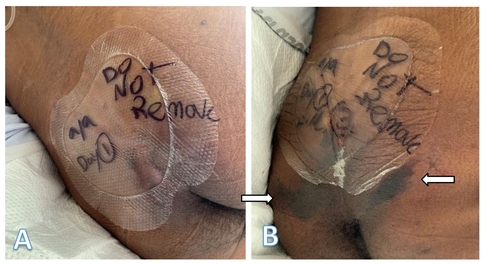
Case 1. Patient in intensive care with Foley catheter and fecal incontinence. TGD on sacrum at A) Day 1, B) Day 2, and C) Day 3



Case 2. TGD on left hip at A) Day 1, B) Day 2, and C) Day 3



Case 3. TGD under medical device at A) Day 1, B) Day 2, and C) Day 3



Case 4. TGD on sacrum at A) Day 1 and B) Day 3. Patient developed deep tissue pressure on bil ischiums where the dressing was not covering (arrows)

RESULTS

- Due to the transparency of the dressing, the nursing staff were able to assess the patient's skin for pressure injury without daily removal of the dressing.
- The nursing care time and number of dressing changes were significantly reduced from every day when using foam dressings to every three days when using transparent dressings.
- All twenty patients had the dressing last for the full protocol time limit of 3 days.
- The skin was at reduced risk of MARSI that can be caused by frequent dressing changes.
- No incidence of MARSI were observed.
- Use of the skin barrier spray helped to seal the transparent dressing to the skin.
- The edges of the TGD did not peel off even in patients that were more ambulatory.

IMPLICATIONS for PRACTICE

- We conclude from this case series of 20 patients that a transparent gel dressing can reduce dressing changes from one day to three days (protocol limit) thereby reducing nursing staff time and improving overall patient satisfaction.
- We observed no incidence of pressure injuries or MARSI within the TGD-covered regions of the skin at risk.

REFERENCES

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3. Bernatchez SF, Mengistu GE, Ekholm BP, Sanghi S, Theiss SD. Reducing Friction on Skin at Risk: The Use of 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film. Adv Wound Care (New Rochelle). 2015 Dec 1;4(12):705-710. doi: 10.1089/wound.2015.0628

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