









# **Pathway for Larval Debridement Therapy**

(To be initiated in Secondary Care or Tier 4 services only. Follow up care can be provided by Tier 3/ District Nurses.)

Larval Debridement Therapy (LDT), known as 'maggot therapy' or 'biosurgery' involves the use of larvae of the greenbottle fly, which are introduced to a wound to remove necrotic, sloughy and/or infected tissue.

#### **Benefits**

- Removal of dead tissue in chronic wounds
- Reduction of bacterial burden in chronic wounds
- Acceleration of healing in chronic wounds.

#### Indications for use

- Diabetic Foot Ulcers Non – healing surgical wounds
- Leg Ulcers
- Post traumatic wounds **Pressure Ulcers** 
  - Infected wounds (including MRSA).

# **Getting Started**

## 1. Assess the patient

Are there any contraindications such as exposed bowel, high INR, wounds which have a tendency to bleed, or close proximity to an artery?

> NO YES

Can the patient offload pressure for the whole treatment duration to avoid suffocation of the larvae?

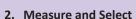


Choose another treatment option at this time.

Does the wound have soft and moist tissue? YES



Soften the hard, dry eschar using autolytic debridement prior to application.



- The length, width and depth of the wound.
- Select a Biobag from the 5 Biobag sizes available, ensuring the wound bed and margins are covered.

#### 3. Order

- DBTH The Skin Integrity Team to place the order by 2pm for next day delivery (4pm on a Friday for a Monday delivery).
- RDASH contact Tissue Viability and Lymphoedema Service for ordering.

#### 4. Receive

- Delivery to be received, keep in the transit container and store at room temperature 6 - 25°C (Products do not need to be refrigerated).
- Check the viability of the larvae (they should be cream/beige in colour), they should be visibly moving.
- 5. Application Check the expiry date of the LDT. Use the 6 step application process using an Aseptic Non Touch Technique.

## 1. Cleanse



Physically clean the wound bed in accordance with the **Wound Cleansing** Policy.

## 2. Protect



Apply the protective harrier cream supplied with the larvae to the peri - wound area.

## 3. Apply



Apply the Biobag with direct contact to the wound.

#### 4. Moisten



Cover with saline moistened gauze.

#### 5. Absorb

Apply a non-occlusive superabsorbent dressing e.g. Kliniderm.

#### 6. Secure

Secure the dressing using either tape e.g. clinipore, or a nonocclusive bandage e.g K- lite.

#### 7. Daily Care

- Change the outer dressing when wet
- Change the saline moistened gauze
- Re-apply protective barrier if needed
- Monitor for pain and bleeding.

#### 8. Reassess on Day 3 (72 hours)

- Reassess the wound to decide on further treatment
- Reorder if any visible slough is present (Full debridement usually requires between 1 - 3 treatments).

## 9. Remove and dispose Day 4 (96 hours)

- Securely double bag
- Dispose as per local policy for contaminated waste.

## 10. Repeat

Repeat LDT as required.

If the named product on this pathway is not available a temporary second line product is available to use. This can be found within the main text of the Doncaster Wide Wound Care Formulary Document.

Developed by the Skin Integrity Team April 2019. Reviewed May 2020 v3. For review June 2024. Reference: Biomonde (2017) Assessing a wound for larval debridement therapy. Wounds UK.