Post surgery necrosis

This case study shows the use of Larval Debridement Therapy (LDT) in the community on a 53 year old female patient who developed a necrotic nipple following surgery. The patient led an active life with no other significant medical history. The patient was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a left mastectomy with insertion of an expander implant that progressed to healing. Following on from this she decided to have surgery to her right breast for symmetry to improve the overall appearance and enhance her self confidence. Unfortunately, the nipple on the right breast became sloughy, necrotic and non viable. The patient was admitted as a day surgery case to remove the necrotic nipple on April 16th and the District Nurses were subsequently asked by the Hospital to apply Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT). The patient was also referred to the Tissue Viability service.

01: Prior to application of LDT

Following a wound assessment on April 21st, the Tissue Viability Nurse deemed that the wound would benefit from LDT for rapid debridement prior to the application of NPWT. The wound was approximately 7 x 5.5cm and at least 2cm deep. It was not possible to determine the exact depth of the wound due to the amount of slough (90%) present. The patient agreed to the treatment and a BioBag® 100 (5 x 4 cm) was prescribed by the GP and ordered via the Community Pharmacist.

02: Following two applications

The BioBag® 100 was applied as per instructions on April 22nd by District Nurses. On day 4 of the treatment (April 26th), the BioBag® was removed and an AQUACEL® dressing was applied. Following a reassessment by the Tissue Viability Nurse on April 27th, a further treatment of LDT was recommended and a second BioBag® 100 was prescribed.

The second BioBag® was applied by District Nurses the following day (April 28th). Upon reassessment on day 2 of the second treatment (April 30th), the wound had reduced in size with 95% granulation and only 5% slough. Treatment with LDT was concluded at this stage.

03: Post Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

NPWT was commenced the following week on May 6th and the final image demonstrates how the wound progressed to healing post NPWT. This image was taken on June 29th, 9 weeks after the first application of LDT.