

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Department of Dermatology

Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the administration and supply of Silver Nitrate 0.5% solution by nursing staff

1. Clinical Condition

Clinical Condition	Treatment of infected leg ulcers and over granulation of tissue
Maturity of patient	Adult only
Criteria for inclusion	All patients with ulcerated lesions with pseudomas infection or over granulation of tissue
Criteria for exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients of the solution• Must not be applied to the face• Must not be applied to the anogenital region
Action if excluded	Patient should be referred back to referring doctor
Action if patient declines treatment	Document patients refusal in the patients medical notes and refer patient back to referring doctor
Circumstances when further advice should be sought	If there are any adverse reactions to the treatment seek advice from referring doctor

2. Characteristics of staff

Class of health care professional to whom PGD applies	Named Nurse
Qualifications required	Qualified as a first level registered nurse working within Dermatology
Additional requirements	The qualified nurse must have worked within the Dermatology Department for a minimum of one year
Continuing training requirements	Attend courses relating to dermatology and a commitment to continuing updating of skills in discipline area Adhere to NMC recommendations on professional development, scope of practice and conduct

3. Description of Treatment

Name of Medicine	Silver nitrate 0.5% solution
Class of Medicine	Antiseptic
Legal Status	General sales list medicine (GSL)
Medicine is licensed for clinical condition stated in PGD	No. It is an unlicensed medicine however is widely acknowledged as an effective treatment of the conditions included in this PGD
Route of administration	Applied topically to the affected area only
Pharmaceutical form and strength	Silver nitrate 0.5% topical solution
Dose	Applied sparingly to affected area or soaked onto a non-adhesive dressing cut to the size of the affected area and applied
Frequency	Applied once a day
Total dose to be supplied	One 100ml bottle
Maximum period of administration which medicine should be administered	Applied until the overgranulation is removed or the affected area is proven to be free from the psuedomas infection Patient assessed daily by named nurse
Common adverse effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staining of skin and clothes• Not to be applied to mucous membrane or eyes as it is corrosive and will cause pain

3. Treatment continued

Action to take if adverse effect	Treatment stopped, refer the patient to the referring doctor and record the adverse reaction in the patients notes
Additional warning	Patient reminded that solution can stain skin and clothes
Information on follow up treatment.	The patient is followed up by the dermatology department nurse or their district nurse Patient informed to see GP if any problem occurs
Prescription to be supplied to patient	Prescription to be supplied from stock . Date and patients name to be recorded on item and recorded in patients notes. Information/ instruction sheet also to be given to patient

4. Patient Information

Written / Verbal advice for patients	During treatment the patient is told that the silver nitrate is applied to the lesion only. Reminded that the solution can stain skin and clothes it may come in contact with. The patient is followed up by dermatology department nurse or their district nurse who assess the ulcer lesion. The patient is also given verbal/written information regarding their condition and the telephone numbers of a contact nurse.
Records to be kept	Record all treatment discussed and demonstrated in the patients notes and send a completed discharge letter to the GP (see Appendix 1)
Audit	Practice to be reviewed each year

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