

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
- Leg Ulcers
- Pressure Ulcers
- Non – healing surgical wounds
- Post traumatic wounds
- 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?

NO

Choose another treatment option at this time.

YES

Does the wound have soft and moist tissue?

NO

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

YES

YES

2. Measure and Select

- 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 barrier 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 non-occlusive bandage e.g K- lite.

7. Daily Care

- Change the outer dressing when wet
- Change the saline moistened gauze daily
- 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.