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What wound care specialists should know about Pyoderma Gangrenosum

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Statement of the Problem: Pyoderma gangrenosum (PG) is a rare, destructive neutrophilic dermatosis characterized by a progressive, necrotizing process. The classic pyoderma involves a full-thickness ulcer with blue undermining borders. Patients exhibit “pathergy” with the appearance of new lesions after local trauma such as surgical procedures, debridement, and biopsy, thus suggesting altered inflammatory response (Soncini et al., 2016). The treatment of PG involves both systemic therapy such as corticosteroids and antibiotics, and topical therapy like wound dressings and compression therapy. The purpose of this review is to discuss the benefits of wound dressing and compression therapy in treating acute wounds from PG. Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: To obtain these results, search terms including “pyoderma gangrenosum”, “wound dressing” and “compression therapy” were utilized. Furthermore, the articles were selected based on recency of publication as well as depth of detail regarding the specific PG types they help target. Findings: The results show that numerous dressings are used to target each subtype including films for superficial skin disruption, hydrogels for dry eschars, absorptive alginates for exudates, hydrocolloids for granulating wounds, and silver iodide for colonized wounds. In addition, compression therapy is used for healing ulcers and preventing recurrent ulcers. Conclusion & Significance: The results of this study will be used to enhance wound care in PG by individualizing each dressing depending on the nature of the PG wound. The use of both wound dressings and compression therapy will facilitate improved healing of this debilitating dermatosis.