

Cost-Effectiveness of DACC Surgical Dressings

Case Study



Surgical site infections (SSIs) are not uncommon and can be an expensive side effect following caesarean section and often occur post-discharge from hospital. Dialkylcarbamoyl chloride (DACC) impregnated dressings have a higher acquisition cost than standard surgical dressings for such infections.

Using data from a randomised study comparing DACC impregnated dressings with standard dressings, YHEC built a simple economic model to estimate the cost-effectiveness of DACC impregnated dressings.

The model predicted a 64% reduction in the SSI rate when DACC dressings are used, with a nominal difference in the number of dressings used per patient. Despite the large difference in the upfront cost of dressings, DACC dressings were estimated to be cost-saving on a per-patient basis and were also

associated with reductions in health care resource use (especially bed days).

Scaling the findings of this analysis up to the NHS as a whole, the model predicted potential cost-savings of £15.7 million per year and a reduction of approximately 9,000 bed days.

This analysis highlighted the importance of thinking about the overall healthcare cost and not just the price of an intervention when making local funding decisions. The research has been published in Journal of Wound Care.



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