TITLE: Use of Single-Use Sterile Dressings from a Previously Opened Package in the Community Setting: Safety, Harms, and Guidelines

DATE: 14 June 2012

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the evidence on the safety and harms of using single-use sterile dressings from a previously opened package, on the same patient, in a community setting?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines and recommendations for using single-use sterile dressings from a previously opened package, on the same patient, in a community setting?

KEY MESSAGE

One relevant non-randomized study was identified regarding the use of single-use dressings from a previously opened package in a community setting was identified.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, EBSCO CINAHL, The Cochrane Library (2012, Issue 5), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2002 and June 5, 2012. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

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RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One relevant non-randomized study regarding use of single-use sterile dressings from a previously opened package, on the same patient, in a community setting was identified. No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or evidence-bases guidelines were identified. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The included non-randomized study examined wound supplies in the home-care setting at seven and 14 days after opening the packaging. Wound care supplies began to show bacterial colonization at the seven day examination and those colonies were large enough to be potentially harmful to some patients at the 14 day examination. No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies


Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

PREPARED BY:
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
www.cadth.ca
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Recommendations – methods of unknown rigour


Additional References

