Table D.29 Hydroactive products

Product®	Manufacturer
Surface hydroactive dressings	
Cutinova Hydro	Smith & Nephew
Allevyn Compression	Smith & Nephew
Allevyn Thin	Smith & Nephew
Tielle	Johnson & Johnson
Biatain	Coloplast
PolyMem	Ferris
Tender Wet (super absorbent polymer activated with Ringer's solution)	Hartmann
Cavity hydroactive dressings	
Allevyn Plus Cavity	Smith & Nephew

Alginate dressings

Alginate dressings are derived from alginic acids found naturally in brown seaweed. They are produced as the calcium and sodium salts. Alginates have a complex structure comprising two uronic acids: guluronic and mannuronic acids. The ratio of these components will result in variation in the physical characteristics of the gels produced from their alginates. Those rich in mannuronic acid tend to produce soft amorphous gels, while those rich in guluronic acid form a firmer gel that retains its basic structure.

When an alginate dressing is placed on an exudating wound, the calcium ions exchange with the sodium ions in the wound fluid and form a hydrophilic gel. They provide a moist environment, and are highly absorbent, conformable, protective, haemostatic and non-adherent. Alginates are used on exudating wounds such as leg ulcers, cavity wounds, pressure wounds, donor sites and other bleeding wounds. They are not indicated for wounds where the level of exudate is insufficient to form a gel. They should not be premoistened before application since the gelling process is part of their action. When applied to clinically infected wounds, alginates should be changed daily. These products are not indicated on dry wounds or those with a black eschar. Alginates are available as sheets, packing rope or ribbon.

Because of their haemostatic property, alginate dressings are also useful in the management of a bleeding nose and most types of lacerations and other wounds with minor bleeding to rapidly stop the bleeding.

Table D.30 Alginate products

Product®	Manufacturer
Sheet	
Soft	
Sorbsan	Uno Medical
Seasorb Soft	Coloplast
Firm	
Tegagen HI	3M
Algisite M	Smith & Nephew
Algoderm	Johnson & Johnson
Kaltostat	ConvaTec
Curasorb	Tyco
Melgisorb	Molnlycke
Restore CalciCare	Hollister
Sorbalgon	Hartmann
Extra-absorbent	
Sorbsan Plus	Unomedical
Rope	
Seasorb Filler	Coloplast
Sorbsan	Uno Medical
Algoderm	Johnson & Johnson
Kaltostat	ConvaTec
Curasorb	Tyco
Melgisorb	Molnlycke
Restore CalciCare	Hollister
Sorbalgon	Hartmann
Tegagen HI	3M

Hydrofibre dressings

An alternative to the alginate dressings is a fibre dressing based on the hydrocolloid technology called 'hydrofibres'. They are made of non-woven sodium carboxymethylcellulose spun into fibres and then into sheets and ribbon dressings. They mirror the action of the alginate dressings in absorbing exudate and forming gels. They are indicated for heavily exudating wounds such as leg ulcers, pressure wounds, cavity wounds, minor burns and donor sites. They do not have haemostatic properties but are useful to protect peri-wound skin as they are able to expand vertically.

Table D.31 Hydrofibre (alginate alternative)

Product®	Manufacturer
Aquacel	ConvaTec