

Quality Of Life Case Study

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This case study represents my experience in using Dansac NovaLife TRE soft convex barrier with this specific patient and may not necessarily be replicated.

Patient Overview

The patient is a 75 year female who lives on her own. She presented with complications to her colostomy following an abdominoperineal resection of her rectum.

Patient History

The patient was diagnosed with cervical cancer and underwent a hysterectomy in her late thirties. Some years later she developed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and was treated with various cycles of chemotherapy and immuno-modulator therapies. This NHL occurrence was attributed to her previous radiation treatments.

Since then, the patient has had a history of bowel obstruction due to radiation strictures. She suffered repeatedly with abdominal pain and vomiting and was frequently admitted to hospital. Earlier this year, she was scheduled for a Hartmann's procedure. However, before this procedure took place, she was diagnosed with an invasive adenocarcinoma of her rectum and had an abdominoperineal resection of her rectum.

Intervention

When the patient was referred to me post-surgery, her colostomy was pink and healthy and had slightly retracted. It measured approximately 50mm wide by 35mm height. The patient had accepted her stoma as she had time to prepare and she had a positive outlook on life. Different brands of bags were being evaluated and she was coping well with bag changes.

At the next review, one week later, I noticed that the patient's stoma was sloughy at the upper edge with a slight dehiscence at 3 and 9 o'clock at the mucocutaneous junction. She was also treated for oral and peristomal candida.

Over the following month the patient's stoma decreased in size to measure approximately 35mm wide and 30mm height and the dehiscent areas granulated in (photo 1).

However, during this time, the patient's perineal wound broke down and she was admitted to hospital for 7 days for treatment. Negative pressure wound therapy was applied and subsequently managed by the district nurses. The patient was anxious about being back in hospital and worried about who would care for her dog.

I noticed that small granulomas were forming at the stoma edge causing her pain and distress. She had a watery output and her mood was low. As a result, I decided to trial the TRE seal (072-48) with the Dansac NovaLife TRE soft convex pouch (3081-44) to see if this would help improve her skin health as part of an overall care plan. When she initially started using TRE seal she complained of pain around her stoma but this soon settled and a week later her peristomal skin showed significant improvement.

The patient, however, had difficulty remembering the poor condition of her peristomal skin when first admitted, and was feeling low and despondent. By showing her photographic evidence of her stoma, I was able to visually demonstrate the skin's improvement and her mood rapidly improved.

Conclusion

The patient continues to use the Dansac NovaLife TRE soft convex pouch and TRE seal (photo 2). Currently, she only needs to change the bags every 2 days and feels very confident with the drainable bag which is what she wanted to use. She is able to maintain an active lifestyle and has a positive outlook.

Key Learnings

- Be aware of the patient's quality of life and how this can be improved
- Taking photos (with the patient's permission) can be helpful to demonstrate clinical improvement to the patient and maintain a positive focus and treatment compliance

“ The patient is able to maintain an active lifestyle and has a positive outlook. ”



Photo 1: Prior to trialing Dansac NovaLife TRE soft convex pouch and TRE seal.



Photo 2: Post discharge from hospital showing marked improvement after 3 days.

About Dansac NovaLife TRE

Living with a stoma does not have to mean accepting peristomal skin complications. Helping the skin around the stoma stay healthy goes a long way in enhancing the quality of people's lives.

The **Dansac NovaLife TRE** ostomy barrier is designed to help keep skin naturally healthy with 3 levels of protection:

Adhesion, Absorption and pH Balance.

The best skin is healthy skin.

**For more information,
contact your local representative.**

