

# Efficacy of a new novel cinnamon odor control dressing\* in Managing Malodor in Malignant Wounds: A Case Series.

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## Introduction

Wound healing in cancer patients can be affected by the disease and further complicated by treatments such as radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Radiotherapy can result in skin reactions in up to 95% of cases (Teng, X. et al. 2022).

Malignant wounds can be malodorous and wound odor control is vital for patient comfort and healing. Unpleasant odors from wounds can lead to embarrassment, anxiety, and reduced quality of life for patients (Lo et al. 2012, Lazelle-Ali, C. 2007).

The aim of this case series was to assess the effect of a new cinnamon-based odor control dressing in managing malignant wounds in different body locations.

## Method

Seven patients with malignant wound types were assessed by a specialist nurse (Table 1).

Initial assessment was carried out to collect information of previous odor control methods that had been used. Assessments were over a maximum 14-day period.

Primary dressings were utilized as appropriate to wound conditions and the patients were monitored at dressing changes. The cinnamon-based odor control dressing was applied as a secondary dressing. Intensity of odor was established by the specialist nurse using a scale from None, Slight, Moderate or Strong. For the analysis, odor intensity was translated in a numerical value from 1 to 4 as followed:

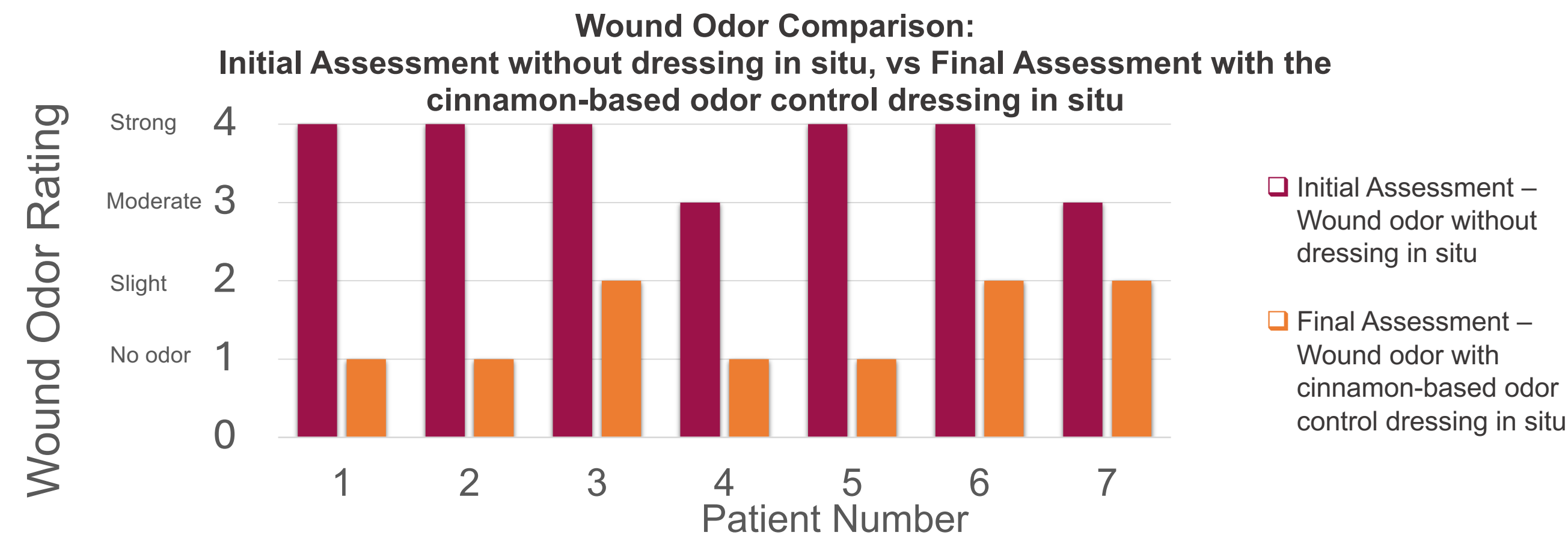
- No odor = 1
- Slight = 2
- Moderate = 3
- Strong = 4

Wound characteristics	Nb of patients	(%)
<b>Classification</b>		
Radiation wound	4	57%
Radiation wound, fungal skin condition	1	14%
Malignant fungating wound	2	29%
<b>Location</b>		
Vulva	5	72%
Leg	1	14%
Chest/breast	1	14%

Table 1: Wound characteristics

## Results

After application of the cinnamon dressing, all patients experienced a significant and consistent reduction in wound odor. Qualitative feedback was collected through interviews, revealing increased social activity and enhanced quality of life. One patient initially benefitted but became non-concordant due to difficulties in communication.



### Patient 3

An 86-year-old female patient presented with malignant lymphoma wounds on both legs and a venous leg ulcer.

Before treatment with the cinnamon odor control dressing, odor and associated discomfort were described as :

- Bad smell described as **spoiled egg** because of the exudate coming from the malignant wounds.
- Partner also said that the smell was bad.
- Patient was ashamed to leave the house, due to high levels of exudate.

Patient was treated with the cinnamon-based odor control dressing for 2 weeks.

While using the cinnamon-based odor control dressing, **the odor was almost all reduced.**

The patient experienced improved comfort and their interaction with others increased, as evidenced by visits to a shopping center and hairdresser.



### Patient 7

An 84-year-old female patient presented with a malignant wound to the left chest.

Before treatment with the cinnamon-based odor control dressing, the situation was described by the patient as:

- "Very bad odor".
- Patient was using perfume and then an alginate carbon dressing\*\* to mask the odor.
- Patient felt very ashamed to be around people, family and friends and grandchildren, so she stayed at home most of the time.

Patient was treated with the cinnamon-based odor control dressing for 10 days.

After starting to use the cinnamon-based odor control dressing, the patient immediately said they **"felt relieved"**. She reported that she was smelling only the cinnamon from the dressing. She changed the dressing herself every three days.

She indicated a preference to continue with the cinnamon-based odor control dressing, but the product was not available. It was noted that the cinnamon-based odor control dressing had reduced odor faster than other products.



## Discussion

These cases support the efficacy of the cinnamon-based odor control dressing, as a secondary dressing, in effectively managing malodor particularly in malignant wounds. Additional benefits observed include increased social engagement and improved psychological well-being among most patients, apart from one patient due to difficulties in communication which highlighted the importance of effective communication to aid concordance.

## Conclusions

This study confirms that the cinnamon-based odor control dressing can be an option to minimize the negative effects of malodor on patients with malignant wounds. Future research on its effectiveness for different wound types could lead to more personalized and effective care strategies.

## References

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\*Cinesteam® is a registered trademark of Cemag Care.  
\*\*Carboflex® is a registered trademark of Convatec.