



Question: What is the guidance to support the use of topical sucralfate on wounds?

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Introduction

Sucralfate, (aluminium hydroxide salt of the disaccharide sucrose octasulfate) was first used as an anti-gastro-duodenal ulcer drug.¹ Extemporaneous preparations of sucralfate have been used to treat different types of epithelial wounds caused by inflammation, infections, vascular occlusion, and physical damage.¹ Sucralfate has also been suggested as a treatment option for surface bleeding.^{2,3}

Mode of Action

Sucralfate has been shown to accelerate epithelial wound healing by increasing the bioavailability of certain growth factors, which in turn has been demonstrated to have a pivotal role in angiogenesis, a main phase in epithelial wound healing.¹ The induction of prostaglandins production as well as cell apoptosis protection by sucralfate can favour the re-epithelialization in the wound healing process.¹

Preparations

Topical sucralfate preparations are not currently available in Ireland. It is generally prepared as an extemporaneous preparation. The following recommendations for extemporaneous preparations are suggested:

- A formula and method of preparation of Sucralfate 4% w/w in Aqueous Cream is available from www.extemp.ie.⁴
- Sucralfate 2g (crushed tablets) in a water soluble gel (e.g. 5mL KY Jelly).^{2,3}

Palliative Meds Info: Terms and Conditions

The information outlined above is intended for healthcare professionals only. The information outlined above is believed to accurately reflect the medical literature at the time of writing. Healthcare professionals must use their own judgment to determine the accuracy and relevance of the information. See www.olh.ie for full terms and conditions.

Evidence for Use/Recommendations for Use

- Masuelli et al carried out a review of the clinical evidence on the use of topical sucralfate for the management of epithelial lesions.¹ According to clinical evidence it appears that the topical use of sucralfate prepared either as powder, emollient, cream, ointment or suspension might be beneficial for the management of burns, perianal and peristomal excoriations, cutaneous erosions and ulcerations, mucositis associated with radiotherapy as well as for non-healing venous stasis ulcers and recurrent aphthous stomatitis.¹
- The Palliative Care Formulary and Symptom Management in Advanced Cancer (4th Edt.) recommend the use of topical sucralfate paste, 2g (crushed tablets) in a water soluble gel (e.g. 5mL KY jelly), as an option for the treatment of bleeding wounds.^{2,3}
- The Martindale outlines that topical sucralfate 7% cream was also reported to decrease pain and speed healing of the wound after open surgical removal of haemorrhoids.⁵

References

- 1) Masuelli L, Tumino G, Turriziani M, Modesti A and Bei R. Topical use of sucralfate in epithelial wound healing: clinical evidences and molecular mechanisms of action. *Recent Patents on Inflammation & Allergy Drug Discovery* 2010; 4(1): 25-36.
- 2) Monograph Haemostatics. Palliative Care Formulary. Available from www.palliativedrugs.com. Accessed on the 06/04/2017.
- 3) Twycross R, Wilcock A and Toller CS. Symptom Management in Advanced Cancer. 4th Edition 2009. Palliativedrugs.com. Pg 236.
- 4) Sucralfate 4% w/w in aqueous cream. Available from www.extemp.ie. Accessed on the 06/04/2017.
- 5) Monograph Sucralfate. Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference. Available from www.medicinescomplete.com. Accessed on the 06/04/2017