

# Small Change, Big Difference: The Comprehensive Benefits of a Dressing Innovation

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## INTRODUCTION

Home health agencies are facing significant challenges. Staffing shortages, driven by burnout and competition with other healthcare sectors, are making it difficult to retain nurses, limiting agencies' capacity to accept new patients. Additionally, agencies are struggling with reduced Medicare reimbursements, forcing many to cut services or limit growth. Despite the growing demand for home care services, these operational constraints hinder agencies' ability to scale effectively.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Superabsorbent polymer (SAP) dressings (Zetuvit® Plus) and multilayer silicone border SAP dressings (Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border) were assessed for use in wounds with moderate to heavy exudate in a home healthcare setting, following prior testing in long-term acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. In addition to reviewing dressing efficacy, nurse satisfaction and the economic impact of SAP dressings were evaluated. This assessment was conducted over a 40-day period in the U.S. The incumbent silicone foam dressings were replaced with multilayer silicone border SAP dressings (Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border) after education by Hartmann staff. Notably, the only change in the protocol was the substitution of the incumbent foam dressings with the new dressings. For this evaluation, 19 wounds (N=19) in 13 patients (N=13) were treated with multilayer silicone border SAP dressings (Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border).

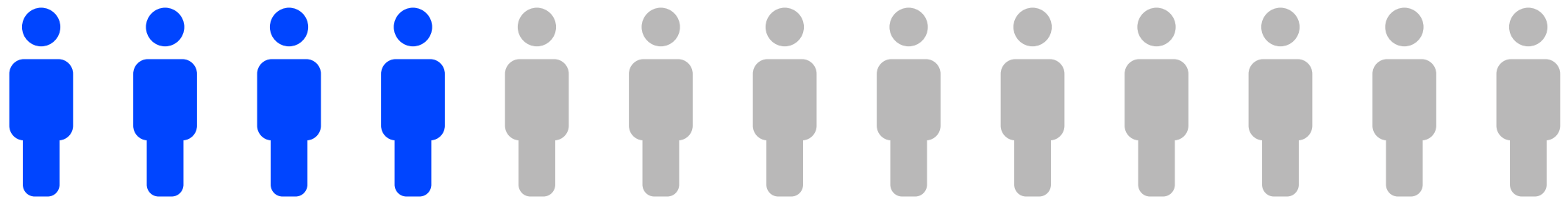
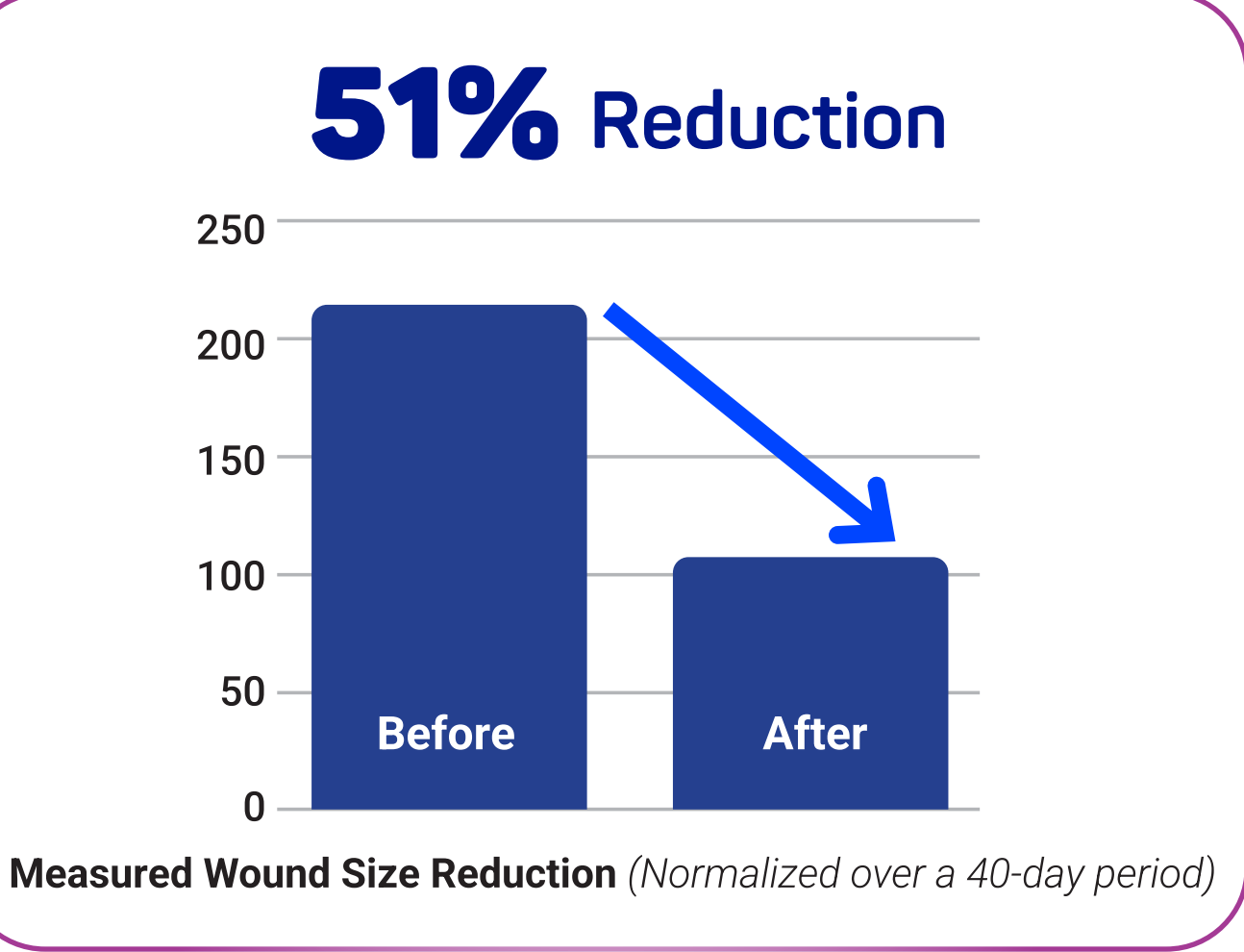
## RESULTS

### Clinical Efficacy:

Five wounds achieved complete closure, and the overall wound surface area decreased by 51%.

### Health Economics Impact:

Dressing changes decreased by 16% as the advanced dressings maintained optimal wound environments for longer periods. Among the 13 patients, 4 had multiple wounds (2–4), a realistic scenario for home health care. Despite these complexities, nurse visits dropped by 10%, offering substantial cost savings. With each skilled nursing visit costing \$180, this reduction translates into considerable financial benefits. Additionally, 4 patients saw closure, potentially allowing access for new patient referrals to the agency.



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4 patients saw closure to all wounds, potentially allowing access for new patient referrals to the agency.

### Nurse Satisfaction:

Feedback from nurses and nurse leaders indicated that the multilayer silicone border SAP dressings were easy to apply, effectively managed exudate, and reduced the frequency of dressing changes. This efficiency allowed for more streamlined wound management, consistent with findings from LTACH and SNF settings.

## CONCLUSION

The findings led to the adoption of multilayer silicone border SAP dressings (Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border) over the incumbent silicone foam alternatives. This simple yet effective implementation resulted in both clinical and financial improvements, with reduced utilization of dressings and nurse visits, alongside better patient outcomes. These results align with findings from LTACH and SNF settings, solidifying multilayer silicone border SAP dressings (Zetuvit® Plus Silicone Border) as excellent choices for wound care across various healthcare environments.

Zetuvit® Plus, Paul Hartmann AG, Heidenheim, Germany



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<sup>1</sup> Data presented on behalf of anonymous contributors.