

Appendix R: Cleansing Solutions

This is not an exhaustive list of cleansing solutions for chronic wounds (including pressure injuries), but rather suggestions of information identified within the systematic review, AGREE II appraised guidelines, by the expert panel or external stakeholder feedback.

| Agent | Effects |
|---|---|
| Sodium hypochlorite solution | High pH causes irritation to skin. Dakins Solution and Eusol (buffered preparation) can select out Gram-negative micro-organisms. |
| Hydrogen peroxide | De-sloughing agent while effervescing. Can harm healthy granulation tissue and may form air emboli if packed in deep sinuses. |
| Mercuric chloride, crystal violet, Proflavine | Bacteriostatic agents active against Gram-positive species only. May be mutagens and can have systemic toxicity. |
| Cetrimide (quaternary ammonium) | Good detergent, active against Gram-positive and -negative organisms, but high toxicity to tissue. |
| Chlorhexidine | Active against Gram-positive and -negative organisms, with small effect on tissue. |
| Acetic acid (0.5% to 5%) | Low pH, effective against <i>Pseudomonas</i> species, may select out <i>S. aureus</i> . |
| Povidone iodine | Broad spectrum of activity, although decreased in the presence of pus or exudate. Toxic with prolonged use or over large areas. |

Source: Reprinted from “Best Practice Recommendations for Preparing the Wound Bed: Update 2006,” by R. G. Sibbald, H. Orsted, P. M. Coutts and D. H. Keast, 2006, *Wound Care Canada*, 4(1), pp. 15–29. Copyright 2006 by Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. Reprinted with permission.