

# The Role of a Chitosan Bioactive Microfibre Dressing\* in Managing a Surgical Head Wound: A Case Study on Healing, Wellbeing, and Self-Care.

**Authors:** Emma Jackson Senior Nurse Complex Care, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. Kirsty Varnam Nurse Complex Care, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

## INTRODUCTION

Wounds to the face and head can pose unique challenges, often impacting patient confidence and quality of life (QoL). This case study examines the use of a chitosan bioactive microfibre gelling (BMG) dressing (MaxioCel®) in managing a static surgical wound to the forehead, highlighting its effects on wound healing, patient wellbeing, and supported self-care.

## METHOD

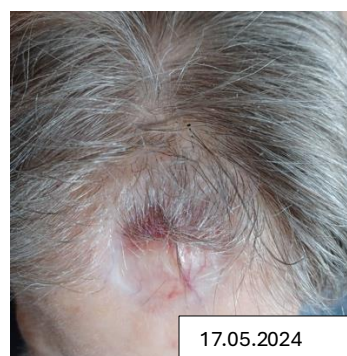
A 74-year-old female, with a **surgical wound** to the forehead of **12 months duration**, having tried various dressings unsuccessfully, was treated MaxioCel chitosan gelling fibre dressing over a 4-week period.

Weekly assessments by a community nursing team recorded exudate levels, wound size, wound bed condition, peri-wound condition. Testimonials were gathered to evaluate the dressing's impact on patient confidence and independence.

## RESULTS

The static surgical wound measured 3x3cm on initial assessment, with 100% granulation. The periwound was dry and eczematous.

- Over a 4-week period, **wound size decreased by 91%** from 3x3cm to 0.8x1cm. Peri-wound skin condition improved from dry/eczematous to healthy. The patient requested to continue with the dressing beyond 4-week evaluation. The wound went on to **heal within 23 weeks of evaluation commencement**.
- The patient reported increased confidence and comfort. Previously, the patient had been anxious about her appearance, finding social interaction difficult. The patient reported **reduced anxiety** about her wound care and **greater willingness to engage in social activities**.
- By Week 3, the patient was able to **independently change her dressings** between nurse visits. The ability to self-care reduced the frequency of nurse interventions and **empowered the patient** to take an active role in her recovery. Importantly the patient was also able to wash her hair, having not done so for 12 months prior, vastly improving her self-esteem.



“Prior to using MaxioCel, I felt uncomfortable going out as people would ask questions. Now it has healed I feel more comfortable going out. I can wash my hair now. I went 12 months without my washing hair - Patient Testimonial

## CONCLUSION

The use of MaxioCel provided effective management of this surgical wound to the head, **promoting wound healing**. Most importantly, an **improvement in patient QoL** was seen, fostering confidence and supported self-care. These findings underscore the value of MaxioCel as a versatile dressing for complex wound management in community settings.

\* MaxioCel is a registered trademark of Axio Biosolutions Pvt Ltd