Purpose

To review healing rates and cost-effectiveness of utilizing dHACM for the treatment of lower extremity chronic wounds in a hybrid clinic caring for both Veteran and Active duty military personnel (VA and DoD).

Methods

- Retrospective analysis of patients treated with dHACM between 2012-14 at a single VA and DoD clinic.
- Eligible for dHACM treatment were wounds failing to reduce by at least 50% after 4 weeks of standard care.
- The dHACM allograft sheet or particulate was applied weekly after debridement followed by non-adherent, sterile dressing.
- Patient characteristics, healing rates, and product utilization were reviewed.
- Cost of dHACM treatment was compared with projected costs of three other biologic treatments.

Results

- 21 VA or DoD patients with 23 wounds treated with dHACM were identified.
- All wounds (100%) healed after introduction of dHACM into the plan of care.
- Mean days to healing was 50.8 ± 34.7, median 45 (7, 120).
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- Mean days to healing was 50.8 ± 34.7, median 45 (7, 120).
- Mean number of dHACM to healing was 3.48 ± 2.2, median 4 (1, 8).
- Seven wounds (30.4%) healed after 1 dHACM application.
- Overall we found that dHACM is clinically efficacious, cost-effective, and simplifies the storage and application process of advanced care technology.

Conclusions

- These results illustrate that using dHACM to treat chronic wounds in our high risk and often compromised VA and DoD population.
- Multiple dHACM application modalities: sheets, particulate, and injectable allow physicians to choose the best application option for each wound.
- The availability of different size grafts in relation to size of wound allows for minimal product waste.
- Overall we found that dHACM is clinically efficacious, cost-effective, and simplifies the storage and application process of advanced care technology.

References


Table 1. Patient characteristics

| Male Gender | 100% (21) |
| Age (years) | 67.8 ± 8.2 |
| Smoker | 52.4% (11) |
| Failed ≥ 4 weeks standard wound care | 100% (23) |
| A1c (mean ± sd) | 7.3 ± 1.3 |
| Wound area at 1st dHACM (cm²) | 1.05 ± 1.47 |
| Wound type: | |
| DFU | 87% (20) |
| VLU | 4% (1) |
| Surgical | 9% (2) |

Figure 1. Cost per healed wound assuming similar effectiveness of each product and time to healing