

Authors: Alicia Smith, Director, Wound Care Program, Grady Health System; **Jennifer Gale**, Global Health Outcomes, Smith+Nephew

Evaluation of a five-layer foam dressing for exudate management

Introduction

The global pooled prevalence of chronic wounds is estimated at 2.21 per 1,000 population¹ and in the US alone, wounds are estimated to cost the Medicare system \$22.5 billion annually². We know that chronic wounds can result in reduced quality of life to patients through physical, social and emotional damage as well as placing an increased economic burden on families and health systems³. An effective dressing should provide sufficient absorbency to manage any excess exudate, while maintaining a moist wound environment⁴. As well as this, dressings must be changed at a frequency that is appropriate for the patient and their wound type⁵, fewer dressing changes will result in increased wear time therefore facilitating undisturbed wound healing. The aim of this evaluation was to gather information to assess how well a five-layer foam dressing* performs in managing exuding wounds.

Method

Clinicians were asked to share feedback at dressing application and removal and advised to follow their usual protocol for dressing examination and change. They were trained on dressing usage in line with their clinical judgement. The survey was hosted on SNAP software and stored securely on a US-based server compliant to ISO2700110⁶. The product evaluation form was accessible through use of a unique QR code and captured ratings on how well the dressing retained exudate as well as performance in other key areas, including the effectiveness of the change indicator and conformability.

Results

Between September and December 2025, 29 hospitals took part in data collection resulting in 231 responses (questions were non-mandatory). 201 responses were collected for dressing application and 30 responses were collected for dressing removal. 100% (25/25 responses) of respondents were satisfied with the dressings ability to retain exudate during removal (Figure 1) and 87.5% (21/24 responses) of respondents were satisfied with the change indicator (Figure 1). 98.5% (174/177) of respondents were satisfied with how the dressing conformed to the patient (Figure 1), and 98.6% (221/224) were satisfied with the overall dressing performance (Figure 1).

Discussion

The evaluation demonstrated high clinician satisfaction with the five-layer foam dressing in managing exuding wounds. Positive ratings for exudate retention, conformability, and overall performance highlight the product's reliability in supporting wound healing and patient comfort. The positive feedback on the dressing change indicator suggests potential to optimize wound management efficiency and reduce unnecessary dressing changes.

Image 1 – Five-layer foam Dressing

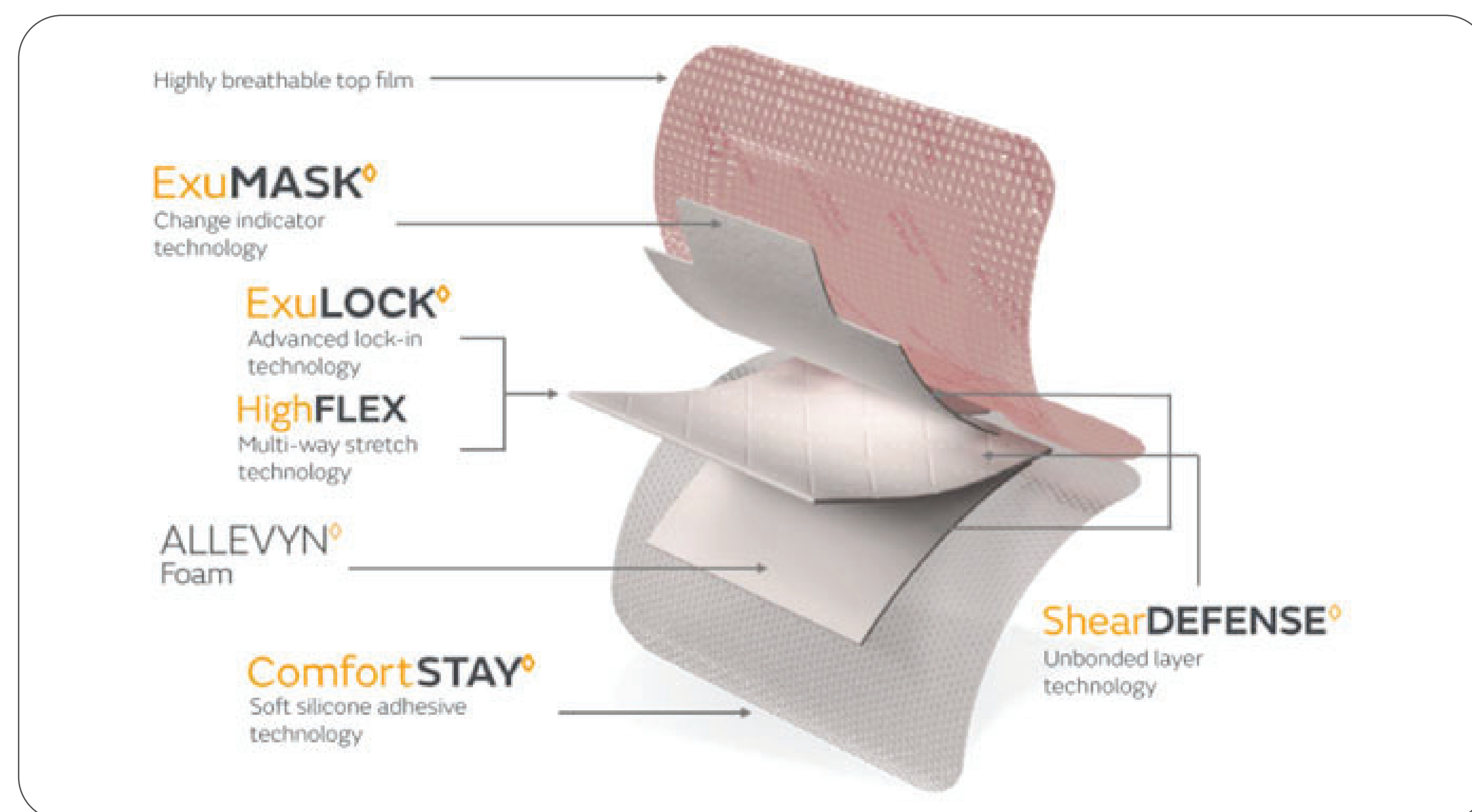
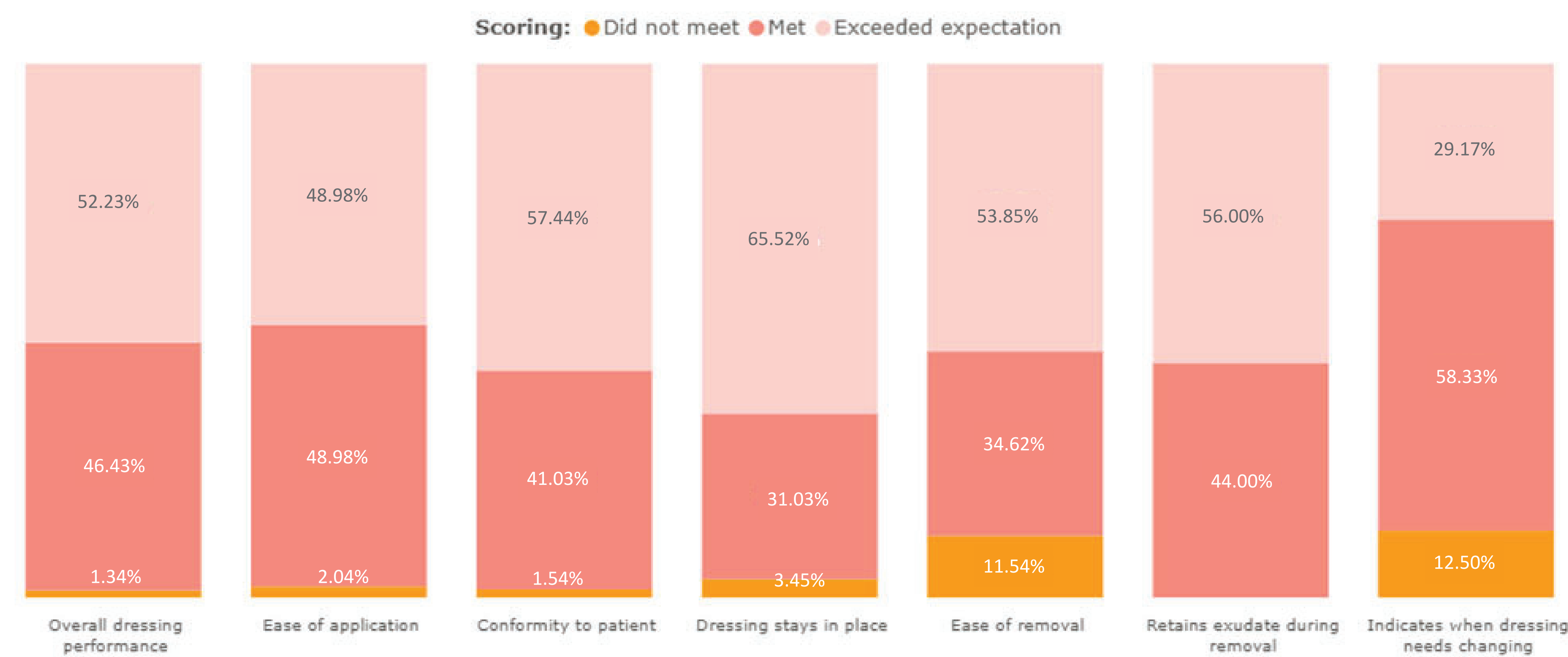


Figure 1 – Opinion on whether dressing met expectation of various aspects of performance



References 1.Martinengo L, Olsson M, Bajpai R, et al. Prevalence of chronic wounds in the general population: systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *Ann Epidemiol.* 2019;29:8-15. doi:10.1016/j.annepidem.2018.10.005 2.Sen CK. Human Wound and Its Burden: Updated 2025 Compendium of Estimates. *Adv Wound Care (New Rochelle).* 2025;14(9):429-438. doi:10.1177/21621918251359554 3.Vogt TN, Koller FJ, Santos PND, Lenhani BE, Guimarães PRB, Kalinke LP. Quality of life assessment in chronic wound patients using the Wound-QoL and FLQA-Wk instruments. *Invest Educ Enferm.* 2020;38(3):e11. doi:10.17533/udea.iee.v38n3e11 4.Nuutila K, Eriksson E. Moist Wound Healing with Commonly Available Dressings. *Adv Wound Care (New Rochelle).* 2021;10(12):685-698. doi:10.1089/wound.2020.1232 5. Lindholm C, Searle R. Wound management for the 21st century: combining effectiveness and efficiency. *Int Wound J.* 2016;13 Suppl 2(Suppl 2):5-15. doi:10.1111/iwj.12623 6.Snap Surveys. Accessed February 24, 2026. <https://www.snapsurveys.com/>

This case is provided for informational and educational purposes only. This case may not represent typical outcomes. Every procedure and each patient undergoing wound treatment represents unique sets of circumstances and, therefore, results may vary. Smith+Nephew does not provide medical advice. The information presented is not, and is not intended to serve as, medical advice. It is the responsibility of the treating physician to determine and utilize the appropriate products and techniques according to their own clinical judgment for each of their patients.

For detailed product information, including indications for use, contraindications, precautions and warnings, please consult the product's applicable Instructions for Use (IFU) prior to use.

©Trademark of Smith+Nephew
All Trademarks acknowledged
Published March 2026
©2026 Smith+Nephew 49990-uki 03/26

Footnote: *ALLEVYN® COMPLETE CARE (Smith+Nephew, Hull, UK)

Presented at SAWC Spring 2026, Charlotte, North Carolina