

# Cost benefits of using soft-foam dressings\* in acute and chronic wounds

Michelle Proudman, Tissue Viability Nurse, Pennine Acute Hospital Trust (Division of Medicine and Community Services), UK

## Aim

The aim of this product evaluation was to evaluate the influence of a soft-foam dressing\* on the number of dressing changes required for patients with acute and chronic wounds.

## Method

Twelve wound patients were changed from their current foam dressing to the soft-foam dressing\* and evaluated for 3 weeks. The patients were included over a 14-week period.

## The following was recorded:

- Type and duration of the wound
- Previous foam dressing used
- Previous number of dressing changes required per week
- Number of dressing changes required per week, during the first week and the third week
- Wound appearance

## Results

- Seven wounds were chronic with a duration of more than two months
- Six of the seven chronic wounds did not heal during the evaluation

## Number of dressing changes per week

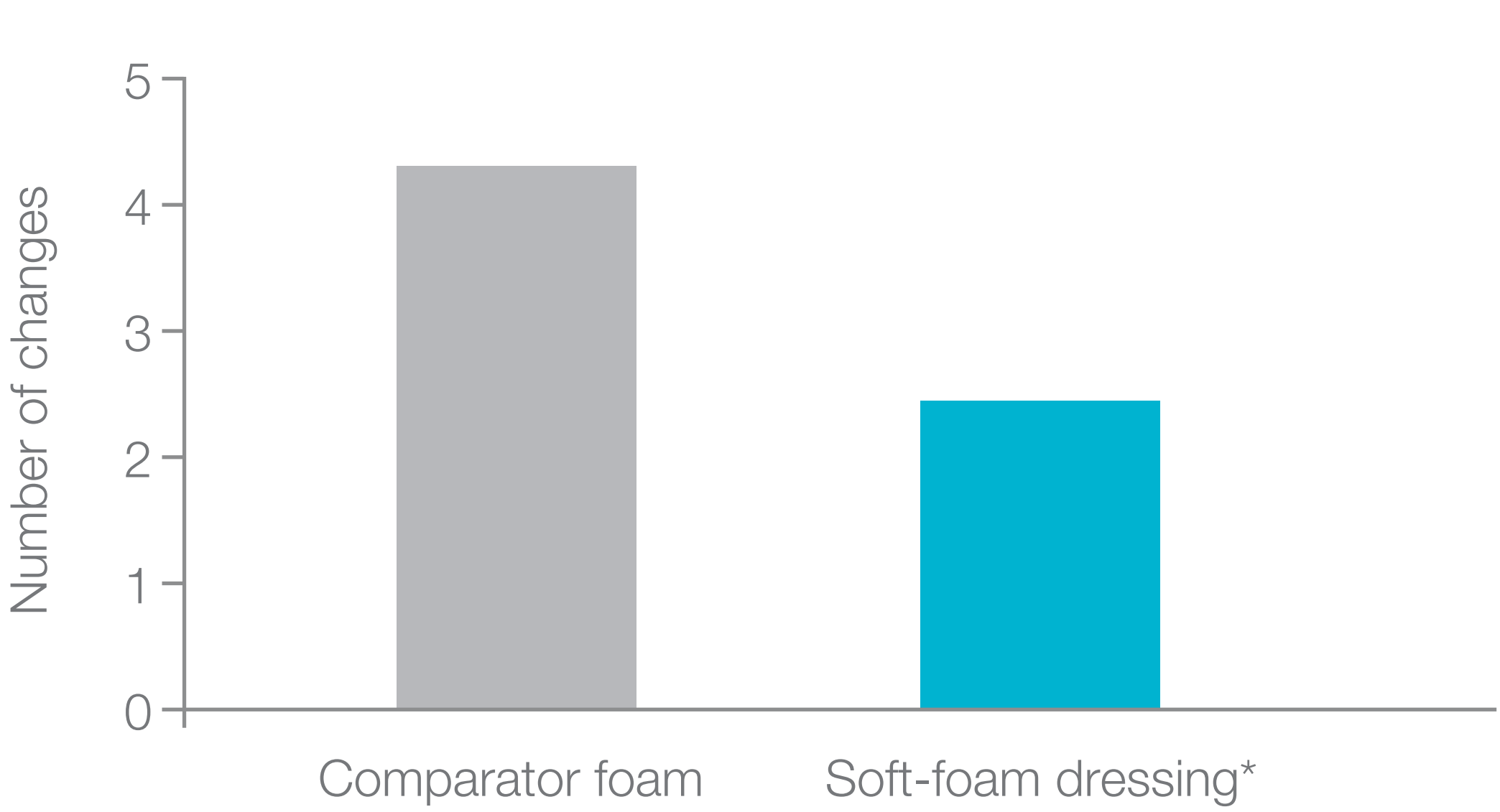


Figure 1. Number of dressing changes per week in the group of patients with chronic non-healing wounds. Evaluated before inclusion (comparator) and at 3 weeks use of the soft-foam dressing\*.

## Average cost per week

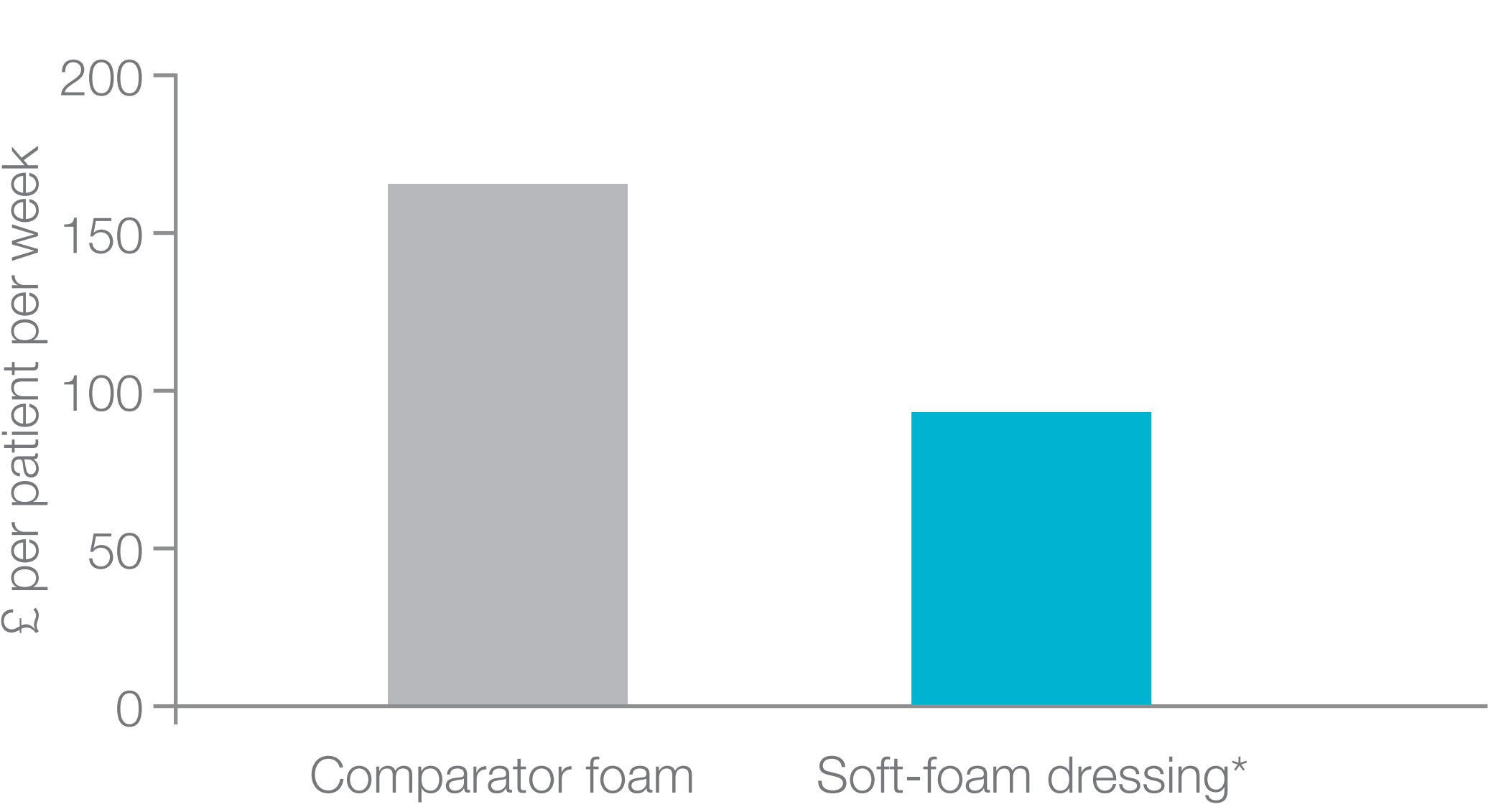


Figure 2. Average cost per week in the group of patients with chronic non-healing wounds, including cost of foam dressings (Drug Tariff price) and nursing time<sup>1</sup>. Evaluated before inclusion (comparator) and at 3 weeks use of the soft-foam dressing\*. The average weekly saving was £72.71 per patient.

- Two of the five acute wounds healed
- For the acute wounds the average number of dressing changes per week was reduced from 4.4 to 2.0 at 3 weeks use of the soft-foam dressing\*

## Conclusions

This small evaluation demonstrated that the test dressing has both clinical benefits and cost benefits. Clinically, it managed wound exudate well. Cost savings were also realised across all wounds. An average weekly saving per patient of £72.71 was demonstrated in chronic wounds.

## References

1. Curtis, Unit Cost of Health and Social Care 2011

\* Biatain®, Coloplast A/S