

## Press Release

*Journal of Wound Care* publication on Debrichem desiccant gel shows significant cost-effectiveness for UK National Health System (NHS) in addition to better outcomes in patients with hard-to-heal venous leg ulcers

- Peer-reviewed paper on cost-effectiveness of Debrichem published in *Journal of Wound Care* and presented by Prof. Julian F. Guest at EWMA conference
- Topical debridement gel Debrichem plus standard care (SC) increased the probability of healing of hard-to-heal venous leg ulcers (VLU) by 75% in 12 months
- Addition of Debrichem to SC over 12 months has the potential to reduce NHS costs for hard-to-heal VLUs by up to 57%, compared to SC alone
- Addition of Debrichem to SC increased health-related quality of life over 12 months from 0.74 to 0.84 quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) per patient

**Rotterdam, The Netherlands, June 13, 2022** – DEB<sup>x</sup> Medical, the Dutch medical technology company revolutionizing the management of chronic wounds, announced today that data on cost-effectiveness of its novel desiccant debridement gel (Debrichem<sup>®</sup>) is now published by Prof. Dr. Julian F. Guest, Dr. med. Valter Deanesi and Dr. med. Arrigo Segalla, in the renowned medical *Journal of Wound Care*. The peer-reviewed article "[Cost-effectiveness of Debrichem in managing hard-to-heal venous leg ulcers in the UK](#)" demonstrates Debrichem's added health economic benefit in reducing NHS costs for this indication by 57%, while substantially improving patient outcomes, compared to a standard care protocol alone.

Michel H.E. Hermans, M.D., Chair of the respective EWMA satellite symposium<sup>1</sup>, commented: "The National Health Service is estimated to spend an annual £ 3.2 billion to treating VLUs, while approximately 87% of these costs (£ 2.8 billion) were used for hard-to-heal VLUs. The study, presented by Professor Julian Guest, showed a strong potential for Debrichem to be beneficial for the UK National Health Service: with Debrichem, the health outcomes improved for significantly lower cost. In total, the NHS could save up to 57% on wound care management costs in treating hard-to-heal VLUs."

The objective of this health economic review was to estimate whether the topical desiccant debridement gel Debrichem could potentially deliver a cost-effective solution for the management of hard-to-heal VLUs. Employing a Markov model, the study was based on a retrospective cohort analysis of anonymised case records of patients who suffered from this condition. Markov models are recursive decision trees used for modelling conditions involving events that may occur repeatedly over time, as is the case with VLUs and wound infections.<sup>2</sup>

A total of 114 patients, 50% female, with a mean age of 69.5 years, with VLUs presenting a mean wound area of 92.9 square cm and a mean wound duration of 7.8 months prior to treatment were allocated into two cohorts, consisting of 57 patients each. The first cohort received Debrichem plus SC, the second cohort received SC alone. SC comprised a number of clinician visits, hospital admissions,

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attendance at accident and emergency units plus the combination of dressings, compression therapy and other bandages that patients received.

In the first cohort, SC plus Debrichem, hard-to-heal VLU's had a 75% increased probability of healing by 12 months, and health-related quality of life over 12 months increased from 0.74 to 0.84 QALYs per patient. Cost of treatment over 12 months for Debrichem plus SC was £ 3,128 per patient, while standard care alone cost £ 7,195 per patient, with price calculation based on NHS unit resource costs at 2019/20. In conclusion, the authors found that Debrichem has the potential to reduce overall NHS wound care costs for managing hard-to-heal VLU's by up to 57%.

"We are very encouraged by these health economic data. Hard-to-heal VLU's, which have a worldwide prevalence of about 1.5% in developed countries, pose a reducible large expense to healthcare systems. This data convinces us that Debrichem can help to greatly improve the outcomes and enhance the quality of life of patients around the world and at the same time dramatically reduce healthcare costs compared to traditional procedures, for instance sharp debridement. Contrary to conventional surgical treatments, Debrichem desiccates the wound chemically by disrupting the biofilm and thus removing infections of the wound in more than 90% of cases after a single treatment," commented Bert Quint, M.D., CEO of DEBx Medical.

Prof. Dr. Julian F. Guest spoke at the renowned conference of the European Wound Management Association (EWMA), hosted in Paris from May 23 to 25, 2022, during the "Opening Key session: EWMA past, present, and future activities" on the topic of "Economy, where are we now?"<sup>3</sup> and presented his study findings in a 1-hour satellite symposium.<sup>1</sup>

#### **About Debrichem®**

Debrichem® is a disruptive new treatment option to address the infection in chronic wounds. The topical agent offers a superior alternative to surgical debridement, the current standard of care. Debrichem has been demonstrated to remove the biofilm and the pathogens from the wound bed that disrupt the onset of the natural healing process. In a peer-reviewed publication discussing a case series of 10 patients, over 90% of chronic wounds started to heal after only one treatment with Debrichem.<sup>4</sup> Similar results could be observed in more than 5,000 patients treated in individual curative trials (data not published). The product is applied in a fast and simple, non-invasive procedure. Healthcare professionals should always consider using local anesthetics when applying the treatment. Debrichem can be used outside a surgical environment which can be particularly useful in situations, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, where patients cannot get to hospitals to undergo surgery, avoiding long-term complications like amputation.

#### **About chronic wounds and venous leg ulcers (VLU's)**

Chronic wounds are defined as wounds that have failed to heal or reduce in size by 4 weeks to 12 weeks. The probability of healing of chronic wounds depends on various variables, such as wound size, patient's overall health status or concomitant medications. With a prevalence of chronic ulcers of approximately 1.5% in the general population (ranging from 1.5% in Australia to 13% in North America and 16.6% in Belgium) and an expected rise of the incidence of chronic wounds amongst

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certain populations, e.g., in patients with diabetes, chronic wounds represent a major global health problem and financial burden.<sup>5</sup>

Venous leg ulcers (VLUs) in particular, are a major cause of morbidity and have a prevalence of around 1% in adults in the UK. VLUs are caused by chronic venous insufficiency in the lower limbs. Risk factors are family history, deep venous thrombosis, age and obesity. Some VLUs fail to heal within weeks or several months and are then considered “hard-to-heal”.<sup>4</sup>

The presence of excessive inflammatory cells and proteins (cytokines and proteases), or drug-resistant biofilm, are common factors that prevent chronic wounds with different etiologies (venous insufficiency, peripheral arterial disease, diabetic neuropathy, pressure ulcers, and vasculitis) from healing.<sup>5</sup>

### About DEB<sup>x</sup> Medical

DEB<sup>x</sup> Medical B.V. is a Dutch medical technology company dedicated to revolutionizing the management of chronic wounds by enabling their healing, thereby improving the outcomes for millions of patients. DEB<sup>x</sup> Medical aims to support doctors and their patients from diagnosis through treatment, follow-up care and maintenance of a healthy wound bed. The Company focuses its pipeline on targeting pathogens that corrupt wound healing, aiming to deliver affordable and effective treatment approaches that can easily be applied and implemented in daily clinical practice. DEB<sup>x</sup> Medical is commercializing Debrichem<sup>®</sup> through a worldwide network covering more than 50 countries, with the first market launches e.g. in Italy, Portugal, Spain, France, and the UK.

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### References

- <sup>1</sup> [EWMA 2022 Scientific programme. Satellite Symposium by DEBx Medical: Cost-effectiveness of DEBRICHEM<sup>®</sup> in managing non-healing venous leg ulcers in the UK](#)
- <sup>2</sup> Husereau D, Drummond M, Petrou S, et al., *Value in Health* 2013;2(16):231–250. [https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/article/S1098-3015\(13\)00022-3/fulltext](https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/article/S1098-3015(13)00022-3/fulltext)
- <sup>3</sup> [EWMA 2022 Scientific programme. Opening Key session: EWMA past, present, and future activities](#)
- <sup>4</sup> Cogo A et al., *Wounds* 2021;33:1-8. <https://www.woundsresearch.com/article/restarting-healing-process-chronic-wounds-using-novel-desiccant-prospective-case-series>
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