

Economic analysis and budget impact of clostridial collagenase ointment compared with medicinal honey for treatment of pressure ulcers in the US

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Objectives: Pressure ulcer (PU) treatment poses significant clinical and economic challenges to health-care systems. The aim of this study was to assess the cost-effectiveness and budget impact of enzymatic debridement with clostridial collagenase ointment (CCO) compared with autolytic debridement with medicinal honey (MH) for PU treatment from a US payer/Medicare perspective in the hospital outpatient department setting.

Methods: A cost-effectiveness analysis using a Markov model was developed using a 1-week cycle length across a 1-year time horizon. The three health states were inflammation/senescence, granulation/proliferation (ie, patients achieving 100% granulation), and epithelialization. Data sources included the US Wound Registry, Medicare fee schedules, and other published clinical and cost studies about PU treatment.

Results: In the base case analysis over a 1-year time horizon, CCO was the economically dominant strategy (ie, simultaneously conferring greater benefit at less cost). Patients treated with CCO experienced 22.7 quality-adjusted life weeks (QALWs) at a cost of \$6,161 over 1 year, whereas MH patients experienced 21.9 QALWs at a cost of \$7,149. Patients treated with CCO achieved 11.5 granulation weeks and 6.0 epithelialization weeks compared with 10.6 and 4.4 weeks for MH, respectively. The number of clinic visits was 40.1 for CCO vs 43.4 for MH, and the number of debridements was 12.3 for CCO compared with 17.6 for MH. Probabilistic sensitivity analyses determined CCO dominant in 72% of 10,000 iterations and cost-effective in 91%, assuming a benchmark willingness-to-pay threshold of \$50,000/quality-adjusted life year (\$962/QALW). The budget impact analysis showed that for every 1% of patients shifted from MH to CCO, a cost savings of \$9,883 over 1 year for a cohort of 1,000 patients was observed by the payer.

Conclusion: The results of these economic analyses suggest that CCO is a cost-effective, economically dominant alternative to MH in the treatment of patients with PUs in the hospital outpatient department setting.

Keywords: cost-effectiveness, budget impact, pressure ulcer, debridement, clostridial collagenase, outpatient

Introduction

Pressure ulcers (PUs) contribute to significant morbidity and health-care costs among institutionalized patients. The overall prevalence of PUs in US care settings is an estimated 9.3% and is as high as 28.8% among patients in long-term acute care facilities.¹ Patients who experience PUs report greater levels of pain,² lower levels of health-related quality of life,³ and require longer lengths of stay.⁴ The annual health-care costs attributed to PUs in the US are an estimated \$9.1–\$11.8 billion.⁵ The Centers for Medicare

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and Medicaid Services (CMS) no longer reimburse hospitals for the treatment of hospital-acquired stage III and IV PU.⁶ Therefore, the added costs of PU treatment (an average of \$8,250–\$20,311) can create a substantial financial burden for hospitals.⁷

The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel defines four stages of PUs based on the degree of tissue loss; exposure of subcutaneous fat, bone, tendon, and muscle; and the amount of slough or eschar present.⁸ The management of PUs requires proper wound bed preparation,⁹ the selection of appropriate wound dressings to maintain a moist environment, and attention to proper nutrition.¹⁰ Wound bed preparation includes debridement, the removal of nonviable and necrotic tissue that impairs the reepithelialization processes necessary for healing.¹¹ Debridement also reduces the bacterial burden of the wound and exposes newer wound margin cells with greater proliferative potentials.¹¹ Debridement may be conducted through sharp, enzymatic, biological, mechanical, or autolytic methods.¹⁰ The selection of an appropriate method is guided by wound and patient characteristics as well as clinician and timing considerations.⁹ Compared with surgical and mechanical debridement, enzymatic and autolytic methods have high degrees of selectivity, are easy to use, and are less painful to patients.⁹

Clostridial collagenase ointment (CCO) is an enzymatic debridement agent that selectively breaks down the collagen in the extracellular matrix of necrotic tissue that anchors the tissue to the wound.⁹ Furthermore, collagenase enhances keratinocyte proliferation and migration, promoting epithelialization and a faster reduction in wound size.⁹ Economic analyses report that CCO is a cost-effective treatment for PU debridement relative to treatment with autolytic hydrocolloid¹² and hydrogel¹³ dressings.

Medicinal honey (MH) has been used since ancient times for its antibacterial effect, acceleration of tissue growth and wound healing, and reduction of inflammation.^{14–18} It is thought to act as an autolytic debriding agent,¹⁴ though evidence of its effectiveness in this capacity is conflicting.^{15,16} Cost-effectiveness studies comparing honey to usual care for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers¹⁷ and venous foot ulcers¹⁸

yielded inconsistent results. To the authors' knowledge, no economic analyses have examined the cost-effectiveness of MH relative to CCO for the treatment of PUs.

This study aims to assess the cost-effectiveness and budget impact of enzymatic debridement using CCO compared with autolytic debridement with MH for PU treatment in the hospital outpatient department (HOPD) setting.

Methods

Model design

A Markov model was constructed to assess the incremental cost-effectiveness of CCO compared to MH for the treatment of PU. The base case analyses assumed a cohort of adult patients (≥ 18 years) with PUs treated in a HOPD. The three health states in the model included inflammation/senescence, granulation/proliferation (patients achieving 100% granulation), and epithelialization (Figure 1). All patients entered the model in the inflammation/senescence health state and then either could fail to progress clinically (stay in that health state), achieve 100% granulation (transition to the second health state), or achieve epithelialization (absorbing health state) during any of the 1-week cycles (Figure 2). Patients transitioned to health states in the model in 1-week cycle lengths based on transition probabilities derived from the US Wound Registry (USWR).¹⁹ One-week cycle lengths were chosen because treatment for wound care is centered around weekly clinic visits, and physician evaluation and treatment actions emanate from these visits. The model terminated after a time horizon of 1 year or epithelialization (whichever came first). The model was constructed from a US payer perspective and assessed all costs in 2016 US dollars. Outcomes evaluated included total 1-year costs, number of granulation and epithelialization weeks, number of clinic visits and debridements, quality-adjusted life weeks (QALWs), and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs). The model, sensitivity analyses, and outcomes were constructed and analyzed in TreeAge Pro 2016 (TreeAge Software, Inc., Williamstown, MA, USA).

Furthermore, the study developed a simple budget impact model to estimate the financial impact of using CCO com-

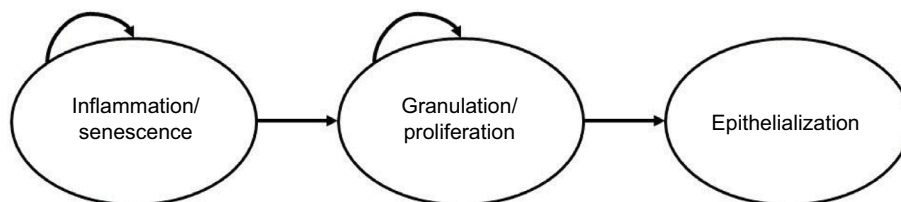


Figure 1 Three-state Markov diagram of wound healing.

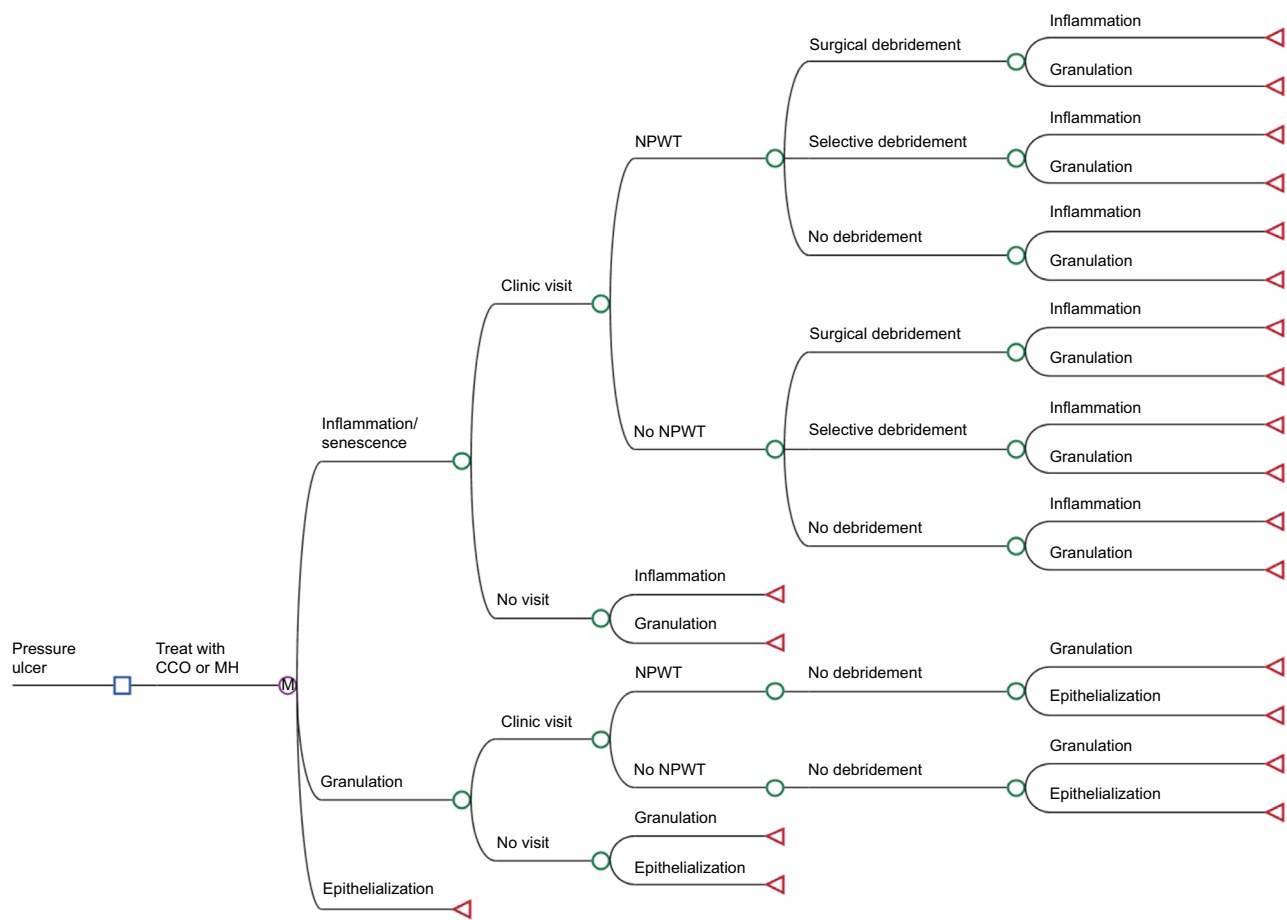


Figure 2 Schematic representation of the Markov model.

Notes: All patients were treated with CCO or MH and entered the model in the “inflammation/senescence” health state. Based on healing rates from the US Wound Registry, patients transitioned to the “granulation” health state until the “epithelialization” health state or the 1-year follow-up ended. Each health state is associated with a cost and quality of life adjustment.

Abbreviations: CCO, clostridial collagenase ointment; MH, medicinal honey; NPWT, negative pressure wound therapy.

pared with MH for the treatment of PU over a time horizon of 1 year. The budget impact model can provide clinicians and decision-makers with guidance when selecting the CCO or MH therapeutic approach. A sample population of 1,000 patients was considered.

Health state transition probabilities

Health state transition probabilities were based on the observed rates from an analysis of patients from the USWR.¹⁹ The USWR is a nonprofit organization that provides data on outcomes and resource utilization among patients with chronic, hard-to-heal wounds. Data are collected from over 100 hospital-based outpatient clinics in the US and Puerto Rico as part of the CMS Physician Quality Reporting System.²⁰ The USWR analysis used for the transition probabilities in this analysis included 446 CCO-treated patients with at least one encounter record with a PU

diagnosis (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification [ICD-9-CM] diagnosis codes 707.00–707.07, 707.09, and 707.20–707.25) between January 2007 and December 2012. Patients were matched to the corresponding honey-treated PUs (341 patients). In total, there were 517 PUs in each group, with the majority of PUs being stage III or IV (17% were unstageable or stage II). Patients had at least one encounter with a PU diagnosis after the index PU event and were followed from the index date until either 100% granulation or epithelialization or the end of the study period. CCO users had significantly fewer total clinic visits (9.1 vs 12.6; $p < 0.001$), fewer total selective sharp debridements (2.7 vs 4.4; $p < 0.001$), and fewer PUs receiving negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT) (29% vs 38%; $p = 0.002$) compared with MH. These results were used to calculate the weekly health state transition probabilities in the model (Table 1).

Table 1 Health state transition probabilities

Therapy	100% Granulation, weekly	Epithelialization, weekly	Clinic visits, weekly	NPWT, weekly	Debridement, weekly ^a
CCO	0.0104	0.0064	0.8805	0.0198	0.3317
MH	0.0083	0.0046	0.9227	0.026	0.4422

Notes: ^aThe baseline case assumes that all debridements were surgical, while sensitivity analysis split the ratio of surgical debridement and selective debridement by the observed ratio performed in additional analysis.

Abbreviations: CCO, clostridial collagenase ointment; MH, medicinal honey; NPWT, negative pressure wound therapy.

Health state utility values

QALWs were calculated by multiplying the time spent in a given health state (life weeks) by a utility value (a health status score ranging from 0 [death] to 1 [perfect health]). In this model, utility values were obtained from the medical literature.²¹ Patients with PU entered the model with a baseline utility of 0.36 for the “inflammation/senescence” health state; “granulation/proliferation” health state utility value was 0.68, and for “epithelialization”, it was 0.8. Utilities associated with all health states were applied for the full 1-week the patient remained in the particular health state.

Costs

Our analysis was conducted from the perspective of a US payer/Medicare, and costs were expressed in 2016 US dollars. When the physician only performed evaluation and management (E&M) services, a level 3 established visit was assumed. When the HOPD only performed a clinic visit, the charge for a level 3 established clinic visit was assumed. When the physician performed surgical or selective debridement, an E&M charge was not assumed; the HOPD only billed the same surgical or selective debridement even if they followed that debridement with nonselective (enzymatic) debridement. When the physician performed an E&M service and ordered the HOPD staff to perform either nonselective debridement or NPWT, the level 3 established clinic visit was assumed for the physician and either nonselective debridement or NPWT was assumed for the HOPD. If the physician performed surgical debridement and ordered the HOPD staff to follow with NPWT, surgical debridement was assumed for the physician while both surgical debridement and NPWT were assumed for the HOPD (Table 2).

The costs of CCO and MH were only included in the sensitivity analyses because Medicare does not separately reimburse for CCO in the HOPD setting (drugs, dressings, and medical supplies are bundled into the debridement procedure code). CCO costs were calculated using the average wound size (7.8 cm²) from the USWR analysis¹⁹ and multiplied by the wholesale acquisition cost (\$6.83/g)²² to obtain an estimated weekly cost of \$63.75. In a secondary

sensitivity analysis, the CCO usage was scaled down weekly to coincide with reduction in the average wound size. This was calculated based on the weighted average of the weekly wound size change for granulated patients and the average weekly change for patients who did not granulate.^{19,23} The cost for MH was estimated using the density of MH (1.5 g/cm³), wholesale acquisition cost (\$0.33/mL),²² and the average wound size, assuming a 0.2-cm-thick application was used to calculate the required amount, in grams, per application. Once-daily application was assumed, the quantity was converted to mL/week required (10.92), and a weekly cost was calculated of \$3.60 per week for MH.

Sensitivity analysis

One-way sensitivity analysis was conducted to assess the relative impact of each input parameter on the results of the model. Model parameters and assumptions were varied independently across predetermined ranges. Where available, 95% confidence intervals were used for the ranges.¹⁹ Monte Carlo simulation (MCS) of 10,000 iterations was performed to determine the joint uncertainty of model parameters. For each variable in MCS, a triangle distribution was assumed (defined by a likeliest, low, and high value) because the true nature of variance for these variables is not well understood and the triangle distribution (when used appropriately) does not violate the requirements of any variable (ie, costs cannot be less than \$0, and probabilities and utilities must lie between 0 and 1). The results of the MCS were plotted on a cost-effectiveness acceptability curve and incremental cost-effectiveness scatterplots.

Results

Base case analysis

Under the base case model assumptions, patients treated with CCO achieved an average of 22.7 QALWs and incurred costs of \$6,161 over 1 year. Patients treated with MH achieved an average of 21.9 QALWs, with an average cost of \$7,149 (Table 3). This suggests CCO is the dominant economic treatment strategy.

Table 2 Procedure and visit costs, 2016 US dollars

Services and procedures performed at encounter (CPT code)			Allowable Charges (CPT/HCPCS code)*	
Visit (99213/G0463)	NPWT (97605)*	Debridement	Physician	Facility
	×	Surgical (11042)	\$63.37 (11042)	\$225.55 (11042); \$58.92 (50% of 97605)
		Surgical (11042)	\$63.37 (11042)	\$225.55 (11042)
	×	Selective (97597)	\$23.63 (97597)	\$225.55 (97597)
		Selective (97597)	\$23.63 (97597)	\$225.55 (97597)
	×	Nonselective (97602)	\$51.56 (99213)	\$117.83 (97602)
		Nonselective (97602)	\$51.56 (99213)	\$117.83 (97602)
×	×	None	\$51.56 (99213)	\$117.83 (97605)
×		None	\$51.56 (99213)	\$102.12 (G0463)

Notes: Even though 2 procedures may be performed during the same HOPD encounter, the payer does not pay for the second procedure or the payer may pay 100% for one procedure and 50% for the other procedure. *CMS pays 80% and patients pay 20%.

Abbreviations: CMS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; NPWT, negative pressure wound therapy; CPT, current procedural terminology; HCPCS, health-care common procedure coding system; HOPD, hospital outpatient department.

Table 3 Base case analysis results

Outcome	CCO	MH	Difference between CCO and MH
One-year costs (2016 US dollars)	\$6,161	\$7,149	-\$988
QALWs	22.73	21.89	0.84
Average weeks in granulation stage	11.51	10.64	0.87
Average weeks in epithelization stage	6.04	4.38	1.65
Number of clinic visits	40.07	43.38	-3.31
Number of debridements	12.31	17.61	-5.30
Proportion of patients who reached granulation/proliferation health state	41.4%	34.6%	+6.8%
Proportion of patients who reached epithelization health state	27.6%	20.7%	+6.9%

Abbreviations: CCO, clostridial collagenase ointment; MH, medicinal honey; QALWs, quality-adjusted life weeks.

Sensitivity analyses

When a constant cost of therapy based on the initial wound size was incorporated in the model (CCO, \$63.75/week; MH \$3.60/week), patients treated with CCO incurred costs of \$8,177 compared to an average cost of \$7,269 for patients treated with MH. When the cost of therapy incorporated a decreasing cost over time based on a weighted average of wound size change over time, CCO again was the dominant economic strategy compared to MH, incurring average total costs of \$7,029 compared to average costs of \$7,200.

The results of the one-way sensitivity analyses depicted in Figure 3 show that the base case model results were most sensitive to the rate of debridement, the rate of clinic visits, and the probability of granulation, when these inputs were varied independently across a low-to-high range of costs. CCO lost economic dominance (ICER > \$0) when MH granulation and clinic visit rates were varied to their lowest values, and when the CCO granulation rates were varied to their highest values. Results of the MCS suggested that CCO would be the dominant strategy compared to MH in 91% of the 10,000 iterations at a willingness-to-pay threshold of \$50,000/quality-adjusted life year (corresponding to \$962/

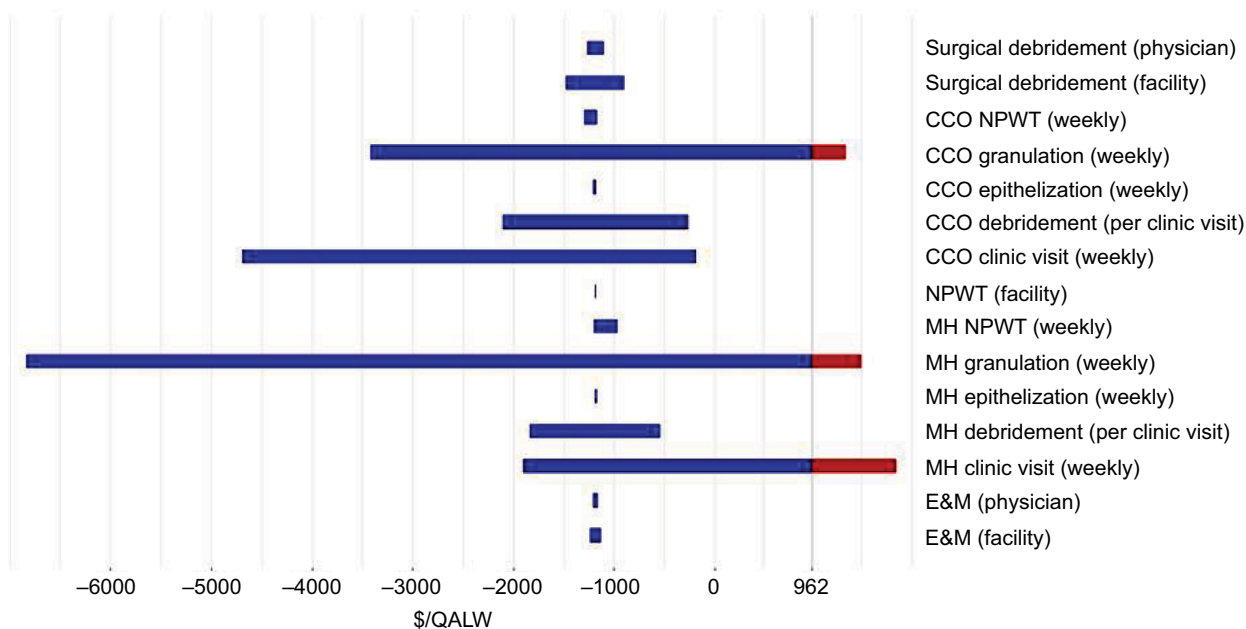
QALW) and that it fully dominates MH in 71% of iterations (Figures 4 and 5). Probabilistic sensitivity analysis of the second sensitivity scenario, where CCO/MH costs were incorporated with a decay in usage over time, suggests that CCO would be dominant in 48% of iterations and cost-effective in 74%.

Budget impact

A simple budget impact analysis was performed assuming a patient population of 1,000 patients and the same base case scenario as the cost-effectiveness model (where costs of CCO and MH were not included separately because drugs, dressings, and medical supplies are bundled into the debridement procedure code). For every 1% of patients shifted from MH to CCO, there would be a cost savings to the payer of \$9,883 over a 1-year horizon. For instance, an initial 20% CCO/80% MH share of patients being shifted to 50%/50% would result in a cost savings of \$296,484 over a 1-year period of time.

Discussion

PU can be difficult-to-treat and slow-to-heal wounds, particularly stages III and IV. These wounds are often treated in



Variable	Base case	Range	Low ICE	High ICE	Spread
Costs in 2016 USD (80% of listed base case)					
Surgical debridement (facility)	\$225.55	\$135.33–\$225.55	–\$1,471.93	–\$893.19	\$578.74
Surgical debridement (physician)	\$63.37	\$38.022–\$63.37	–\$1,263.86	–\$1,101.25	\$162.60
E&M (facility)	\$51.56	\$30.936–\$51.56	–\$1,234.87	–\$1,130.24	\$104.63
E&M (physician)	\$102.12	\$61.272–\$102.12	–\$1,207.43	–\$1,157.68	\$49.76
NPWT (facility)	\$117.83 / 2	\$27.222–\$45.37	–\$1,185.06	–\$1,180.05	\$5.00
Event rates					
CCO granulation (weekly)	0.0104	0.0068–0.01488	–\$3,415.03	\$1,302.98	\$4,718.02
CCO epithelization (weekly)	0.0488	0.0409–0.0524	–\$1,207.69	–\$1,173.47	\$34.22
CCO clinic visit (weekly)	0.8805	0.46–1.0	–\$4,694.68	–\$184.46	\$4,510.22
CCO NPWT (weekly)	0.0198	0.0109–0.1039	–\$1,290.94	–\$1,171.15	\$119.79
CCO debridement (per clinic visit)	0.3317	0.1302–0.5331	–\$2,105.39	–\$259.70	\$1,845.70
MH granulation (weekly)	0.0083	0.0052–0.0120	–\$6,836.67	\$1,455.61	\$8,292.28
MH epithelization (weekly)	0.0397	0.0336–0.0423	–\$1,188.41	–\$1,168.32	\$20.09
MH clinic visit (weekly)	0.9227	0.6–1.0	–\$1,897.84	\$1,803.51	\$3,701.35
MH NPWT (weekly)	0.0260	0.0138–0.2349	–\$1,195.57	–\$960.66	\$234.92
MH debridement (per clinic visit)	0.4422	0.3145–0.5698	–\$1,835.63	–\$544.14	\$1,291.49

Figure 3 Results of the one-way sensitivity analysis.

Notes: CCO is cost-effective when ICE < WTP of \$962/QALW. CCO is dominant when ICE < \$0. Bars represent the range of outcomes from one-way sensitivity analysis. **Abbreviations:** E&M, Evaluation and management; CCO, clostridial collagenase ointment; NPWT, negative-pressure wound therapy; ICE, incremental cost-effectiveness; WTP, willingness-to-pay threshold; MH, medicinal honey; QALWs, quality-adjusted life weeks.

a HOPD, where the wound can be evaluated and treated by a group of wound care specialists to stimulate granulation and subsequent epithelialization. In HOPDs, evaluation and management of PUs include wound location, size, tissue type, periwound characteristics, and wound exudate, as well as development of a treatment plan that treats any comorbidities that may affect the patient’s ability to epithelialize. This information alongside periodic assessments allows the

HOPD staff to track the progress of the wound throughout therapy and make changes to the treatment plan based on these outcomes. Treatment of PU remains a clinical challenge and, for wounds that do not granulate or epithelialize, can lead to infection and hospitalization. Enzymatic debridement with CCO compared to autolytic debridement with MH has been shown to promote a faster rate of granulation and epithelialization,¹⁹ although its impact on the risk of infection

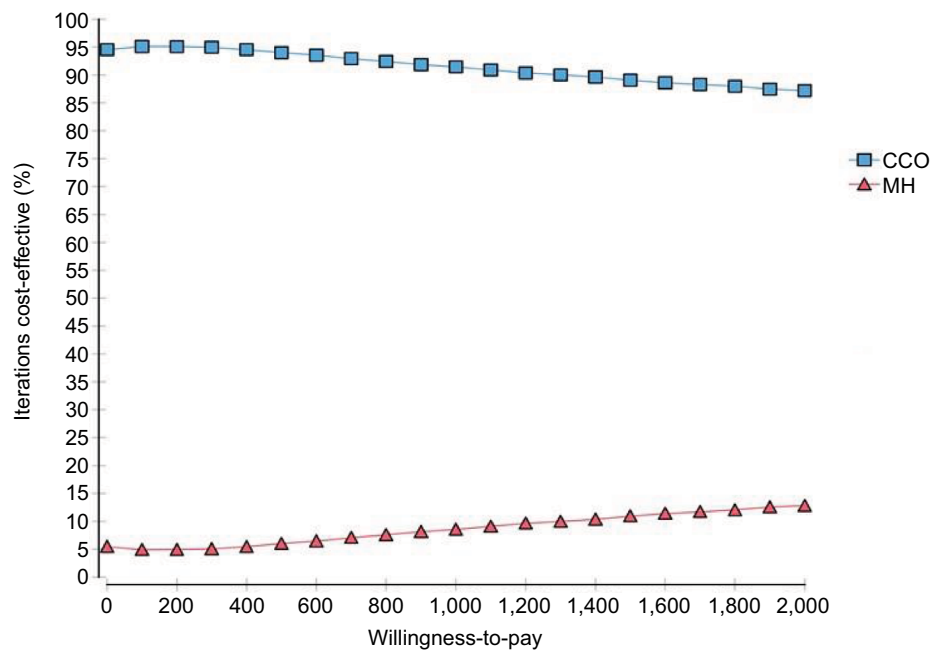


Figure 4 Cost-effectiveness acceptability curve.

Abbreviations: CCO, clostridial collagenase ointment; MH, medicinal honey.

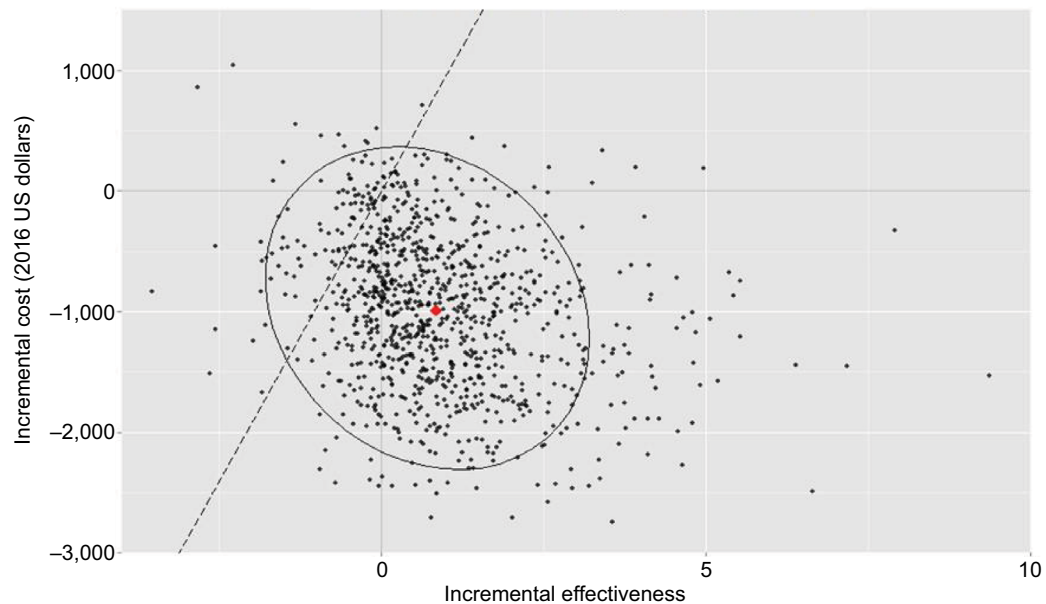


Figure 5 Cost-effectiveness scatterplot.

Notes: Random 1,000-sample of the 10,000-iteration MCS with a 95% confidence interval. The center point is the base case scenario average. Dashed line represents WTP of \$962; CCO is cost-effective to the right of the line.

Abbreviations: WTP, willingness-to-pay; CCO, clostridial collagenase ointment; MCS, Monte Carlo simulation.

and hospitalization among patients with slow-to-heal PUs remains to be confirmed.

The evidence available to guide clinicians in regard to debridement approaches for PU is limited and nearly absent for slow-to-heal PUs. Randomized controlled trials^{24,25} have shown significant differences between groups treated with CCO vs hydrogel dressings in terms of time required to com-

pletely remove necrotic tissue as well as time to epithelialization, both in favor of CCO. One trial²⁶ showed a quantitative difference favoring debridement with CCO compared to another proteolytic enzyme, fibrinolysin/deoxyribonuclease, but the results did not reach statistical significance. Wilcox et al²⁷ demonstrated in a large retrospective analysis of more than 300,000 wounds that faster epithelialization of PUs

was generally correlated with more frequent debridement. However, despite the high incidence of PUs, higher level evidence for proper debridement methods is scarce.

In this study, this model assessed the cost-effectiveness of enzymatic debridement with CCO vs autolytic debridement with MH as treatment for PU among patients in the HOPD setting from a US payer's perspective. At the time of initiating treatment at the HOPD, the average age of these PUs was approximately 6 months, demonstrating the slow-to-heal nature of the wounds being assessed. Overall, the results of the Markov analysis found that CCO was associated with greater quality-adjusted life outcomes (0.84 QALW) at lower total health-care costs than MH (−\$988). This economic dominance was robust under a series of sensitivity analyses where input cost and utility estimates were varied. This would result in potential cost savings of \$9,883 per percentage point shift from MH to CCO per 1,000 patients.

Results from the sensitivity analysis showed that the weekly rate of debridement and clinic visits were some of the most sensitive model inputs. The adjunctive benefits of debridement and NPWT for treatment of PU are well supported in the literature.^{28,29} McCallon and Frilot³⁰ found that patients with stage III and IV PU who received both NPWT and CCO reported improved wound outcomes in several Bates-Jensen Wound Assessment Tool categories, particularly in changes in the overall score and the necrotic tissue domain. Additional findings reported that patients with late-stage PU who received NPWT, sharp debridement, and CCO reported an increased rate of granulation and epithelialization compared to NPWT and sharp debridement alone.

Our Markov model is the first to assess the cost-effectiveness of enzymatic debridement with CCO to autolytic debridement with MH. A number of studies have compared enzymatic debridement with CCO to other debridement methods, primarily other autolytic modalities, in terms of both treatment efficacy and cost, and found similar results. Carter et al³¹ compared the cost of CCO and selective sharp debridement to selective sharp debridement alone for the management of PU using data from the USWR, and found that adding CCO to selective debridement resulted in an ICER of −\$375 per ulcer-free week with 17.2 additional ulcer-free weeks and a cost savings of \$6,445 per patient over a 2-year period. Waycaster and Milne¹³ found similar results using data based on a randomized controlled trial in a long-term care setting, where enzymatic debridement with CCO was economically dominant over autolytic debridement with a hydrogel, providing an additional 99 epithelialized wound days and a cost savings of \$3,477 over a 1-year period. Using data from a randomized controlled trial in an outpatient

setting, Motley et al³² found that CCO and selective sharp debridement compared to selective sharp debridement alone over 1 year yielded eight additional ulcer-free weeks with a cost savings of approximately \$300 per patient for the management of diabetic foot ulcers.

The results of our model are promising; however, certain limitations should be considered when interpreting these results. 1) Results cannot be generalized to wounds of other etiologies (ie, diabetic foot ulcers, venous leg ulcers, or other chronic wounds) or other countries because our study uses real-world data from the US. 2) Comparison of other studies may be challenging because the study population is outpatient based rather than inpatient or long-term care. Our study uses real-world data from the USWR, which may be more generalizable to what is happening in the HOPD clinics. In addition, data inputs to the model were derived from relatively small samples. Furthermore, epithelialization rates had to be simplified owing to the high variance in both groups resulting from loss to follow-up in the USWR. 3) Ulcer recurrence rate is not likely to impact any findings,³¹ and therefore, the model did not incorporate any ulcer recurrence or complications such as infection or hospitalization. 4) Although other adjunctive therapies such as cellular/tissue-derived products and hyperbaric oxygen therapy were similar between groups,¹⁹ it is possible that the incidence of other therapies or dressings not captured may have been different. 5) A limitation of the Markov model is that the probability of moving out of a particular health state is not dependent on the states a patient may have experienced prior to entering that specific health state.³³ However, with the use of time-dependent transition probabilities, this limitation is minimized. Furthermore, parameter uncertainty was reduced by conducting probabilistic sensitivity analyses. Despite these limitations, the findings for this study provide critical information on the cost-effectiveness of enzymatic debridement with CCO and autolytic debridement with MH in the management of PUs.

Conclusion

Treatment with CCO increases PU patient quality of life and is associated with fewer health-care expenditures over 1 year compared to MH, making CCO the dominant economic strategy. Results of our model suggest, based on input data from the USWR, that a larger proportion of patients treated with CCO achieved epithelialization, had fewer clinic visits and number of debridements, and spent more weeks in granulation. Given the cost savings and added benefit of ulcer-free weeks, health-care providers should consider using CCO over MH for the treatment and management of PUs within

the HOPD setting. Future research is warranted to support and expand upon the results found from this model analysis.

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Disclosure

Gilligan, Liang, Limone, Mearns, and Miller, employees of Truven Health Analytics, an IBM Company, received a research contract from Smith & Nephew to conduct this study. Schaum and Waycaster are employees of Smith & Nephew, Inc. The authors report no other conflicts of interest in this work.

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