

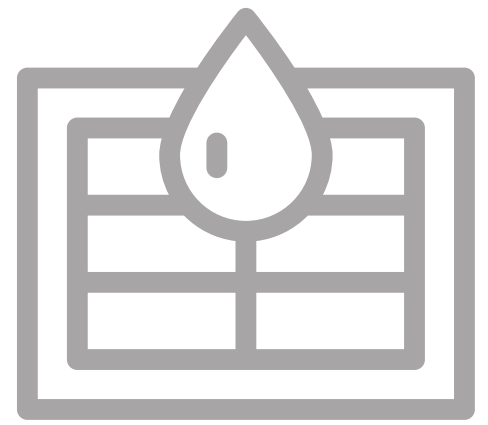
WOUND EXUDATE

(AKA) Drainage

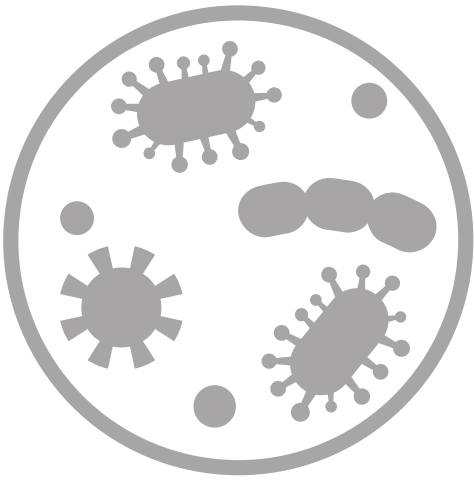
Nancy Morgan
WOUND CARE

WHAT IS EXUDATE?

Liquid produced by the body in response to tissue damage. Exudate results from edema, which has a variety of causes, including inflammation, immobility, limb dependence, venous and lymphatic insufficiency.



WHAT DOES EXUDATE CONTAIN?

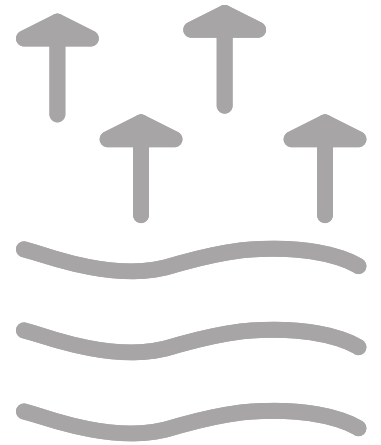


Water, electrolytes, oxygen, antibodies, macrophages, white blood cells.

Exudate from chronic wounds contain higher concentrations of activated enzymes that will result in destruction of healthy tissues in and around the wound. It can deprive new tissue cells of O₂, which in turn slows healing.

WHAT DOES EXUDATE DO?

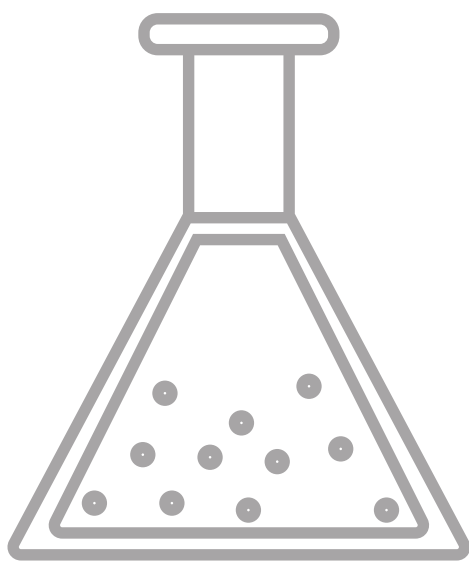
The first role of exudate is to flush away any foreign material from the site of the injury. Carrier medium to bring collagen and other repair materials to the site of the injury. Acts as a lubricant speeding up the migration of epithelial cells across the wound surface to complete repair of the wound.



EXUDATE VOLUME

Normal acute wound healing would have modest amounts of serous, thin, or pale yellow exudate.

Moderate to high levels will macerate and breakdown tissue. Chronic wounds will have high levels of proteolytic enzymes and may breakdown healthy tissue.



CAUSES

1. High bacteria counts, necrotic tissue, edema, chronic wound status
2. Result of debridement, increased exudate levels may be seen due to the liquefaction of necrotic tissue.

Insufficient exudate - dressings will stick causing pain and damage to the tissue. Slough may also accumulate in the wound bed.

Causes may be due to prolonged exposure to air, inappropriate topical products