



Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy

Competent Compounding

116 N Lafayette, Suite B
South Lyon, MI 48178

Phone: (248) 446-2643
Toll Free: (886) 446-2643
Fax: (248) 486-1906
www.specialty-medicine.com
Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm

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Tim Gilkison, PharmD (cand)

Compounding for Wound Care

The care of chronic or non-healing skin wounds is one of the oldest known medical problems. Treatments for wounds can be found in medical texts dating back to around 1600 B.C. Chronic wounds are usually caused by poor blood flow to an area which can be a result of injury, poor diabetes care, or extended pressure to an area (pressure sores). They may develop rapidly, and can range from small sores to large ulcers that expose underlying tissue, including bone. Untreated wounds can lead to serious consequences such as infection or even amputation. The most common treatment for serious wounds has been reconstructive surgery; however recently there has been new insight into the topical use of some rather unorthodox drugs for wound care and healing.

-**Phenytoin** has been used for

many years as a treatment for seizures. It was noted as far back as the 1930s that a side effect of phenytoin was an increase in the tissue size of the gums of the mouth (known as gingival hyperplasia). It was later determined that this increase in tissue may affect other areas of the body, as patients taking phenytoin tended to have their wounds heal faster. Clinical trials have shown that topical phenytoin leads to a larger amount of healing in a shorter amount of time compared to traditional topical treatments such as chlorhexidine and triple-antibiotic ointment.

-**Nifedipine** is a drug normally used to control heart rate and blood pressure. One of its actions is dilation or widening of the blood vessels which increases blood flow. Evidence has shown that when used topically in areas surrounding the wound, nifedip-

ine can increase blood flow to the area which promotes healing without causing any systemic side effects.

-**Misoprostol** has been traditionally used to protect the stomach from ulcers in patients who have been taking pain and arthritis drugs known as NSAIDs. Evidence has shown that when used topically, misoprostol may give similar protection to wounds and may help to accelerate healing. It is believed that it does this by increasing levels of collagen where it is applied which helps with soft tissue formation.

-**Metronidazole** is an antifungal medication added to the gel. Because the wound is dark and moist, it is an excellent environment for fungi to grow. Metronidazole kills the fungus involved and helps to prevent any new growth on the wound. Metronidazole also helps to improve the foul odor of the wound, which is related to the

growth of fungi.

Medications compounded from these agents have shown to heal wounds that have not healed when treated with more traditional therapies. For example, a compounding pharmacist in Ohio was asked to create a topical medication for a patient with a large leg ulcer that had not healed after 2 years. Gels were made containing the drugs mentioned above, along with lidocaine for pain. After 6 weeks of treatment, the ulcer was 95% healed with only a small scab remaining.

This is just one example of the many areas where compounding pharmacies can provide specialized therapies for patients that are not available anywhere else.

Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy

The demands of modern compounding have led to the creation of pharmacies devoted solely to this art. **Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy** has been serving your community for over 6 years. Here we specialize in bio-identical

hormone replacement therapies and veterinary medicine, to name a few. We have all the facilities and equipment needed to make anything from topicals to capsules and sterile injectables. We do not accept insurance, but do provide claims

forms with prescriptions we fill. So, next time a patient wants a compound you're unsure of - we'd be happy to serve them!



Large wound before treatment.



After 6 weeks of treatment with compounded gel.