Use of the MolecuLight i:X® Helped Avoid Costs ($19,550 US) of a Possible Failed Graft Procedure

This 47-year-old male patient required an above knee amputation of his right leg after a severe burn. The stump later became infected, was evacuated, washed out and left open. An subsequent delayed closure was planned.

One week later, clinical assessment suggested the wound was granulating well and had no current contraindications for grafting (e.g. bacterial contamination). The patient was scheduled for a skin graft to close the wound.

However, MolecuLight iX fluorescence images taken prior to the operation detected bacteria (>10^4 CFU/g) in the wound. Probing of this area revealed the presence of pus, which was later confirmed to contain *E. coli* and *P. mirabilis*.

Based on this information, the clinician decided to delay the skin graft operation, which likely would not have been successful if pursued.1,2

In this particular patient, MolecuLight iX images prevented an unnecessary surgery and saved the hospital the equivalent of approximately $19,550 US. This figure does not include the additional health care costs of treating a failed infected skin graft, which would almost certainly have developed in this stump had a graft been performed.
CASE STUDY

The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine – Birmingham, UK

MolecuLight i:X®

The MolecuLight i:X allows clinicians to quickly, safely and easily identify wounds with bacteria (at loads of >10^4 CFU/g, in combination with CSS) and measure wounds at the point of care to provide them with valuable information to inform treatment and monitor progress.

Testimonial

“I was ready to perform skin graft surgery on this patient. The wound looked clean and appeared to be a good candidate for skin grafting. The MolecuLight i:X completely changed my decision making and resulted in not only time and cost savings but also an improved patient outcome.”

— Lt Col Steven Jeffery, RAMC

References:

Images provided by Lt Col Steven Jeffery, The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Birmingham, UK
MolecuLight Clinical Case 0014b

8. 2019 CMS Inpatient Final Rule BOR AOR MS-DRG Files (Vascular skin graft to treat inpatient cost/day).
9. 2019 April CMS Relative value scale and Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research for percent of Medicare and commercial patients.

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The MolecuLight® i:X Imaging Device is approved by Health Canada for sale in Canada and has CE marking for sale in the European Union. The MolecuLight i:X Imaging Device has received FDA clearance.

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