Wound infection continuum[1]

A high bacterial bioburden negatively impacts on healing, and the wound infection continuum is a useful tool for identifying the degree of bacterial colonisation of a wound, thus aiding clinical decision making. There are 4 stages: contaminated, colonised, critically colonised and infected.

Stages	State of bioburden	Implications for wound healing	Action required
Contamination	Presence of organisms.	Present soon after wound occurs. Progresses to colonisation.	**Normal state** no action.
Colonisation	Established microbial population. Growth and death of organisms kept at safe level by host response.	Situation normal. Wound reduction is seen over time.	**Normal state** no action.
Critical colonisation	Host defences unable to maintain healthy balance.	Wound healing is delayed. Possibly associated with exudates and malodour.	**Abnormal state** aim to return to wound colonisation.
Infection (local or spreading)	Microbial imbalance. Host defences overwhelmed. Wound infection and/or local cellulitis.	Ulcer condition deteriorates. Associated with pain, redness, increased exudate levels and malodour. Might lead to bacteraemia, septicaemia and death.	**Abnormal state** aim to return to wound colonisation.

Flaminal's unique antimicrobial properties ensure the bacterial balance is restored whatever the bacterial bioburden.

Flaminal®: a new advance in moist wound healing

Reference

1. Kingsley A. A proactive approach to wound infection. Nurs Stand 2001; 15(30): 50-54, 56, 58.

Ark therapeutics

Flaminal®

Flaminal® hydro