

A LARGE CLINICAL EVALUATION ASSESSING THE TOLERANCE & EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPER-ABSORBENT DRESSING, KERRAMAX CARE

Rosemary Rose, Tissue Viability Clinical Nurse Specialist, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Manor Hospital, Moat Road, Walsall, WS2 9PS, rosemary.rose@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk

Introduction

Heavily exuding wounds are common and can result in malodour, pain, maceration, infection and unsightly soiled dressings, this can have a negative impact on an individual's quality of life¹; good dressing selection makes a real difference to the progress of the wound and the comfort and quality of life of the patient².

This large clinical evaluation involving multiple clinicians and centres nationwide assessed the tolerance and effectiveness of a super-absorbent dressing, KerraMax Care (Crawford Healthcare), for the treatment of both moderate and heavily exuding wounds (n=180). KerraMax Care's unique horizontal wicking action absorbs potentially unhealthy exudate and locks it inside the dressing, so it doesn't leak (Crawford data on file). The extra absorption capacity reduces dressing changes with less wound disturbance and improves patient comfort, as the dressing stays dry to the touch, preventing maceration and surrounding skin problems (Crawford data on file).

Method

Clinicians were asked to complete one evaluation form per patient or per wound treated. The evaluation form recorded the responses to 12 questions about clinician's experiences of managing wounds with KerraMax Care. Clinicians who had used KerraMax Care detailed the aetiology of wounds treated, their duration of treatment, regimens used to treat the wounds, and whether they contained serous or purulent exudate.

Clinicians assessed the effectiveness of KerraMax Care in its ability to manage exudate compared with previous dressings used and whether it increased or reduced maceration on the surrounding skin. Patients rated the dressing in terms of comfort compared with their previous dressing and how convenient KerraMax Care was to use (e.g. in terms of time taken to dress the wound, visits to the clinic). Tolerance and effectiveness were measured using scales of 0 (least tolerant/effective) to 10 (most tolerant/effective). In addition, clinicians were asked to describe any changes in the wound's appearance over the course of treatment and whether the dressing exceeded, met, or did not meet their expectations. They were also asked what dressing they would have used on this patient if they had not used KerraMax Care and whether they would be happy to continue using KerraMax Care.

References

- (1) Jones JE, Barr W, Robinson J (2008) Impact of exudate and odour from chronic venous leg ulceration. *Nursing Standard* 22 (45): 53-61
- (2) Romanelli M, Vowden K, Weir D (2010) Exudate management made easy. *Wounds International*. 1(2) Available from: <http://www.woundsinternational.com>
- (3) Jones J, Barraud J (2014) An evaluation of KerraMax Care in the management of moderate to heavily exuding wounds. *British Journal of Community Nursing Suppl.*: S48-S53

Results

A variety of different wounds were treated, including leg ulcers (50%), pressure ulcers (5%), and other types of wound (45%). The duration of treatment ranged from 0 to 5 weeks (51%) to more than 5 weeks (49%), with the most popular regimens being daily (34%), every 2 days (35%), every 3 days (13%), or twice weekly (11%). The wound exudate was serous in 64% of wounds and purulent in 36% of wounds. Clinicians indicated that KerraMax Care was effective at managing exudate (87% scoring ≥ 7) *Table 1*, and reduced the maceration in wounds (83% scored ≥ 6) *Table 2*.

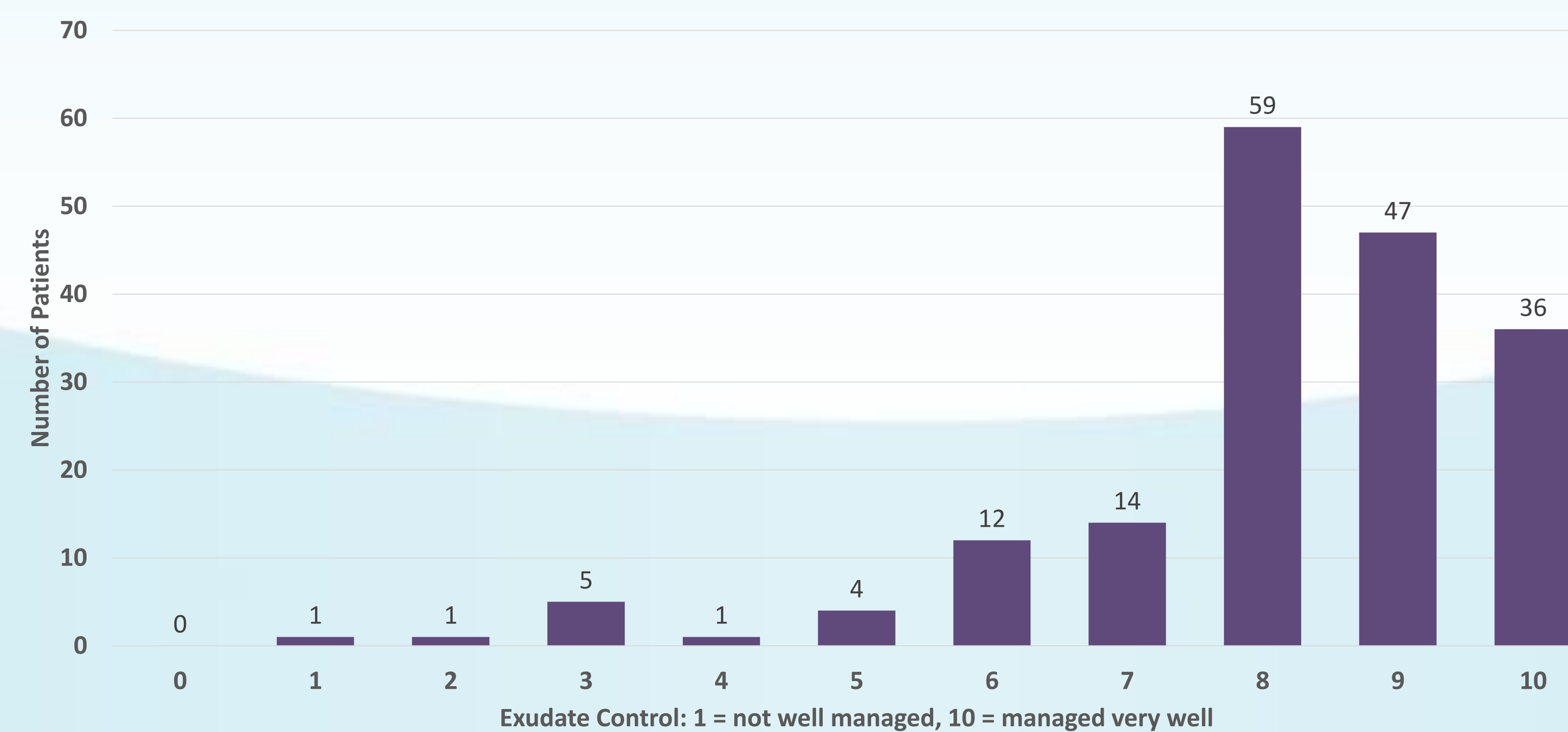


Figure 1: Effectiveness of care: exudate control (n=180)

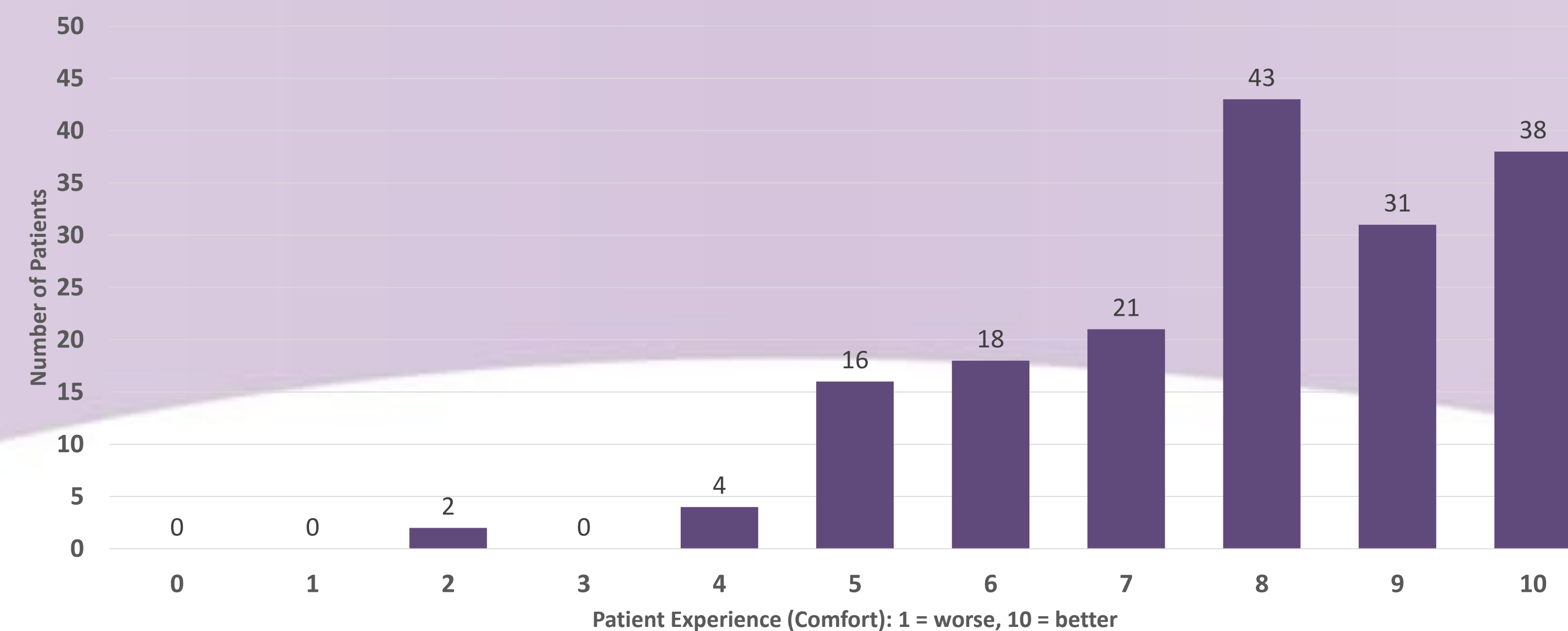


Figure 2: Patient experience: patient comfort (n=173)

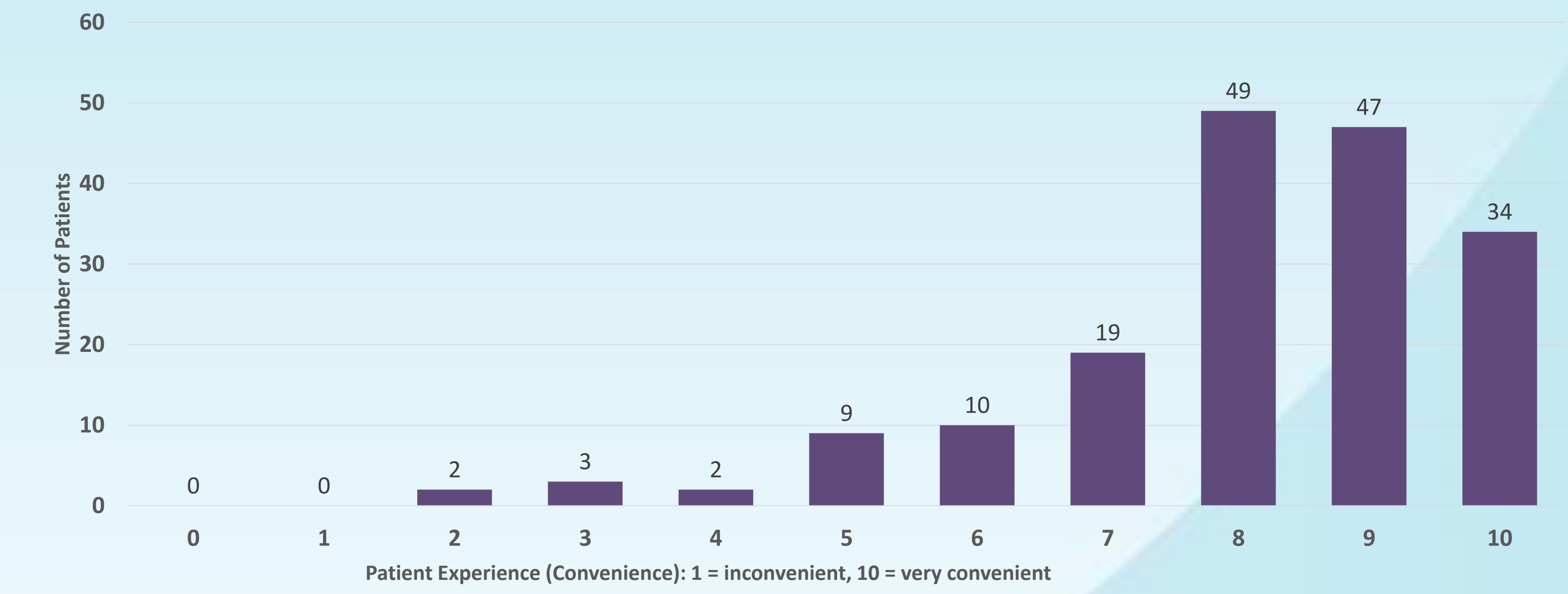


Figure 3: Patient experience: patient convenience (n=175)

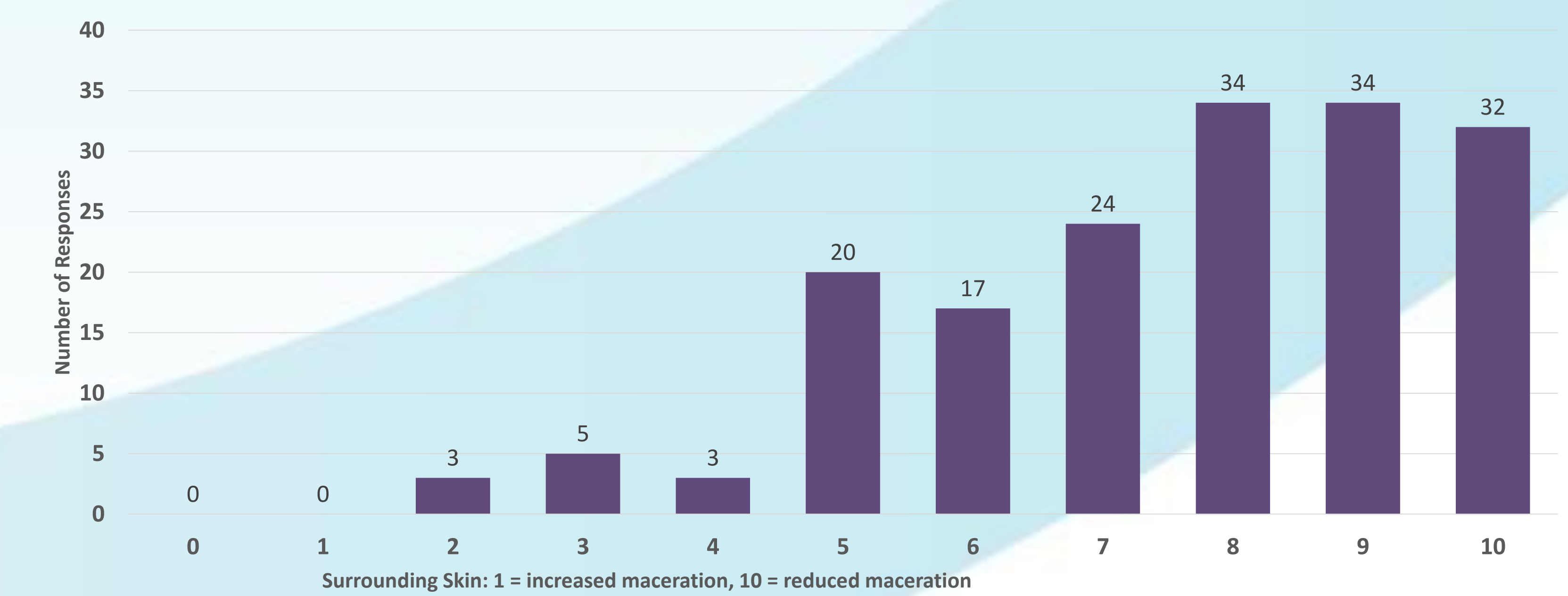


Figure 4: Patient safety: surrounding skin (n=172)

Overall, 61% of clinicians stated that KerraMax Care had met their expectations, whilst 35% stated that the dressing had exceeded their expectations. Competitor dressings that clinicians stated they would have used if they had not tried KerraMax Care included other high absorbency dressings, Zetuvit E or Zetuvit Plus (Hartmann, 58%), Eclpse (Advancis Medical, 16%), or Sorbion Sachet Extra (BSN Medical, 6%). However, clinicians were asked if they would be happy to continue using KerraMax Care, 97% stated that they would.

Discussion

An earlier evaluation³ also indicated that KerraMax Care was effective at managing exudate, reduced maceration of surrounding skin, and increased patient comfort and convenience (n=54). The previous authors³ noted that KerraMax Care wicks fluid horizontally, which is more effective compared with super-absorbent's that wick vertically, especially when managing purulent, viscous exudate. Because of this action there is no risk of gel blocking where super-absorbent material remains unused. KerraMax Care is also able to absorb and lock away this exudate, even under compression (Crawford data on file).

Conclusion

Analysis of the full evaluation further supports the findings from the published interim analysis³ which demonstrated the excellent performance of KerraMax Care in managing moderate to heavily exuding wound and the satisfaction found by patients and clinicians using KerraMax Care.