If you are reading this, it is likely that you are considering Larval Therapy as part of a course of wound treatment. This booklet is intended to provide answers to some of the questions you might have about the therapy.
What is Larval Therapy?
Larval Therapy is a prescription only biosurgical medical device. Larval Therapy, also known as ‘Maggot Therapy’ or ‘Biosurgery’ is a natural form of wound cleaning (debridement) using the living larvae of the greenbottle fly species called Lucilia sericata.

How does Larval Therapy work?
Larvae physically remove devitalized tissue and bacteria from a wound by dissolving it and ingesting it as nutrition. The larvae do not do this using teeth which means that they cannot bite or chew. Larvae release powerful secretions which liquidize unviable tissue into a liquid or semi-liquid form which they ingest and physically remove from the wound. The secretions that larvae produce are very precise in what they remove - only dead and unviable tissue will be dissolved by their secretions and physically removed.

Why should I use Larval Therapy?
The benefits of Larval Therapy have been witnessed for thousands of years. The technique was reintroduced into modern medicine by doctors and wound care specialists who have found that larvae are able to cleanse wounds more rapidly and effectively than many conventional dressings and treatments.

Larvae are able to remove what a clinician cannot always visually identify as being unviable tissue or bacterial burden - two things known to stall wound healing. Larvae actively remove necrotic tissue and bacteria from the wound and because they are selective in what they remove they do not take away any healthy tissue and they do not leave any necrotic tissue behind.

Where do the larvae come from?
BioMonde have been producing larvae for wound care since 1994. BioBag and BioMonde Free Range Larvae are produced in a specialist unit in Gainesville Florida. The facility houses the greenbottle fly Lucilia sericata, the larvae are produced using an aseptic procedure and the larvae are delivered in sterile dressing components.

How big are the larvae?
The larvae used for wound cleaning are very small, much smaller than larvae you may have seen on the television. They are only a few millimeters in length which is smaller than a grain of rice. During the treatment time and as they clean the wound they will increase in size but only to reach a maximum of 12mm in length.

How are the larvae applied to the wound?
There are two methods of application:

BioBag
The larvae are contained within a finely woven net dressing containing a small piece, or pieces of foam. The BioBag dressings come in five different sizes and are applied according to the nature and size of area being treated. The BioBag is applied directly to the wound and the larvae remain completely sealed within the dressing throughout the treatment. This treatment option is quick and easy to apply and remove.

BioMonde Free Range Larvae (Larvae 100/200/300)
The larvae are applied directly onto the wound and are retained within a special net dressing system.
How long does the treatment last?

It is difficult to predict how long a course of treatment will take and is dependent on the individual wound and patient. A single BioBag treatment is typically on the wound for 4 days and Larvae100 (free range) remain on the wound for up to 3 days. Sometimes a wound is completely cleansed by a single application of larvae but other wounds may require two or more treatments to achieve the desired effect.

Do I have to change my usual routine and is there anything I should avoid doing?

No one should be able to tell that you are being treated with Larval Therapy as the outer dressing will look the same as your usual wound dressing. In most cases you will not need to alter your daily routine however there are certain things to avoid.

- Do not bathe or shower (even with a plastic covering over the dressing)
- Do not apply sustained direct pressure to the wound site
- Do not cover the dressing with anything plastic or occlusive
- If the BioBag or Larvae products are applied to your foot consider your choice of footwear - avoid pressure and allow the passage of oxygen
- Avoid areas of high heat such as in front of a heater or direct sunlight

Will I notice anything different during Larval Therapy?

During the Larval Therapy treatment you may notice some changes in the wound:

- The wound may become wetter than usual or there might be dark red or brown discharge. This is due to the action of the larvae breaking down the devitalized tissue.
- The wound dressing can become malodorous during the treatment. This is due to the content of the larval secretions and should disappear when the dressing is changed.
- Most people are unaware of the larvae’s presence, although a small number of patients can feel the larvae moving which is described as a tickling sensation.
- Some patients, particularly those with poor circulation or sensitive wounds report an increase in pain during the Larval Therapy treatment but this can generally be controlled with pain relieving medication for the short treatment duration.
- Your wound might change shape or increase in size. This is due to the selective removal of all unviable tissue. It is not possible for larvae to remove healthy or viable tissue.

The treatment procedure.

After your clinician has chosen Larval Therapy as a suitable wound treatment the BioBag or Larvae100 product can generally be delivered via courier from our facility in Gainesville Florida the very next day. The larvae can be applied at your home, in any healthcare facility or in an outpatient clinic.

The wound will be cleansed and the skin surrounding the wound will be protected from the wound and larval fluid. The larvae will be applied to your wound and will be covered with some padding and a bandage or tape. The larvae will remain on your wound for 3 to 4 days (dependent of the application type) and the outer dressing will be checked and changed on a daily basis.

It is possible that further treatments of Larval Therapy will be required to achieve successful results. Your clinician will assess the wound the day before the dressing is due to be removed and a new treatment will be ordered and reapplied if necessary.

Note: specific indications, contraindications, warnings and side effects exist for BioBag and BioMonde Free Range products. Further information can be obtained in the instructions for use. This product can only be used on the order of a licensed clinician.
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Thank you for considering Larval Therapy as a wound debridement option. We wish you every success on your journey towards wound healing.

For further information or advice please visit our website www.biomonde.com