



Exploring LVAD Driveline Dressing Care from the Patient's Perspective



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Introduction:

- Problem:** Despite having a standardized driveline dressing protocol, observed outpatient practice was not standardized, and driveline infection (DLI) rates were rising.
- Purpose:** Gather input from patients and their caregivers to determine if they would be willing to try new materials and techniques based on evidence in the literature.
- Objectives:** (1) Explore patient and caregiver experiences with outpatient driveline exit site care, including self-reported adherence to dressing care procedures and supplies, and (2) identify patient preferences for an ideal driveline dressing kit.

Methods:

- Study Design:** Prospective descriptive survey study with a patient-centered participatory component
- Adult patients with LVADs or their caregivers were recruited using purposive convenience sampling at the end of routine clinic visits.
- Participants reviewed sample supplies and kits before completing surveys.
- Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlations, and Friedman tests to evaluate survey responses

Results:

- 19 participants completed the surveys, including 14 patients and 5 caregivers (63.2% Male, 15.8% Female; 88.9% HeartMate 3, n=13).
- Participants reported wide variations in materials and techniques used for at-home dressing changes.
- Only 63.2% (n=12) of participants reported adherence to the protocol, and only 42.1% (n=8) were using a standardized dressing kit.
- Statistically significant ranked preference for a sterile kit with stepwise instructions (p=.002) compared to our existing kit and other sample kits.
- Most participants (n=12, 63%) indicated that a periodic review of how to change driveline dressings would be helpful.

Current State

Prior Driveline Dressing Kit

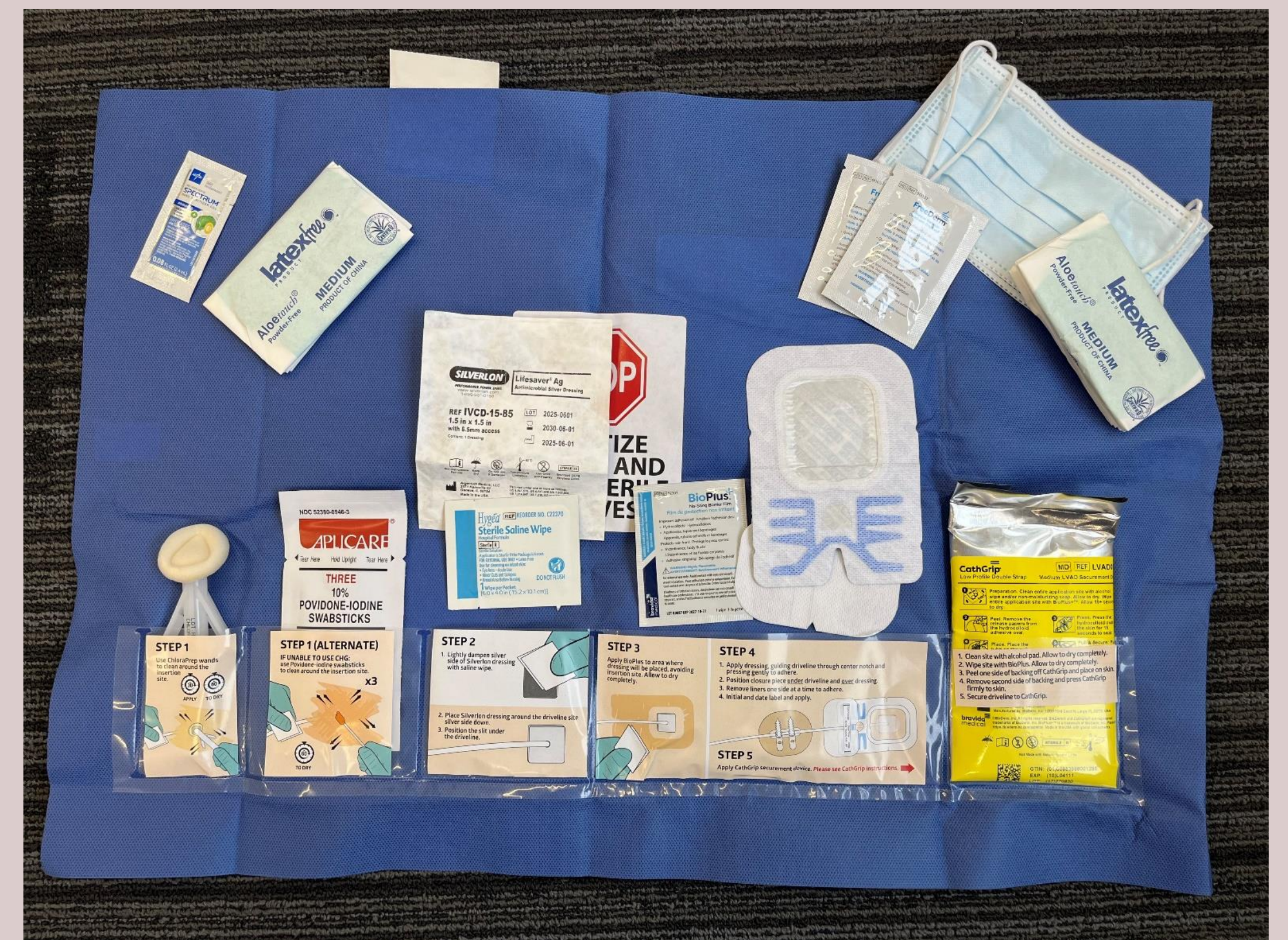


Only 42.1% of patients were using our standardized weekly kit because it did not meet their needs and preferences. Instead, most patients were using individualized supplies without a kit or instructions.



Patient Preference

Redesigned Sterile Driveline Dressing Kit with Stepwise Instructions



Patient preferences directly informed nursing-led redesign of driveline dressing kit

Conclusion:

- Contrary to staff expectations, preferred dressing materials closely matched best practices from the literature, and the majority of participants expressed willingness to adopt sterile technique at home.
- Using both published evidence and survey results, our center switched from a non-sterile driveline dressing kit without instructions to a sterile kit with stepwise instructions.
- To improve patient satisfaction and compliance, VAD centers should consider using a patient-centered approach to determine the ideal driveline dressing kit for their specific patient population.

	Old Kit	New Kit
Technique	Clean	Sterile
Cleaning Agent	Povidone-Iodine	CHG and Povidone-Iodine* *for CHG intolerance only
Antimicrobial Patch	CHG-Based	Silver-Based
Dressing Cover	Transparent Window Dressing	Transparent Window Dressing
Securement Device	Foley Anchor	CathGrip Anchor
Instructions	None	Stepwise Instructions



Acknowledgements: This project was supported by the Stanford Nurse Alumni Legacy Grant through Stanford Health Care.

Disclosures: The presenting author reports no relevant financial relationships with ACCME-defined ineligible companies within the past 24 months.

