The observations from this simple in vitro model suggest that the presence of an adhesive layer may be a physical barrier to silver contained within certain dressings. The dressing constructed entirely from gelling fibres with silver distributed homogeneously throughout and without a containing outer sleeve (HF-Ag) exhibited bactericidal activity in this in vitro model.

These studies, in conjunction with other published data, suggest that dressing technology and construction may be important factors in determining the antimicrobial activity of dressings. Clinical studies and a variety of in vitro models should be used to obtain additional relevant data to assist with product selection.

**References**