

CHITOSAN DRESSING

A CLINICAL TRIAL

AKMAL AZIM AHMAD ALWI



**IIUM
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IIUM
Press
Gombak • 2017

First Print, 2017
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(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Akmal Azim Ahmad Alwi

CHITOSAN DRESSING : A CLINICAL TRIAL / BY AKMAL AZIM AHMAD ALWI

ISBN 978-967-418-711-8

1. Chitosan. 2. Wounds and injuries--Treatment.

3. Surgical dressings. 4. Government publications--Malaysia.

I. Title.

617.1

Published & Printed in Malaysia by
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia
P.O. Box 10, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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CHITOSAN DRESSING

A CLINICAL TRIAL

Wounds are a major problem in Malaysia and worldwide. The bulk of this are chronic wounds from diabetic ulcers, vascular ulcers and pressure sores. These demand a lot of our healthcare resources especially when the cost of wound care devices including dressings are rising. According to the current Director General of health of Malaysia, Dato Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a press conference in Kuching, Sarawak recently, a staggering RM1 million is spent every month by seven hospitals nationwide in 2013 to manage patients' wounds due to costly and advanced dressing materials. Most of this advanced dressings are imported from overseas. One of the best solution to this problem is to develop our own dressings which are affordable but give the same or even superior results.

Chitosan-based dressing has a great potential that may fit the above descriptions. It can be manufactured locally and designed in such a way to meet the physical as well as spiritual requirements of the local population, for example by avoiding porcine or bovine contents. The savings could then be channelled towards other areas of healthcare such as cancer research.

Akmal Azim Ahmad Alwi graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Upon completion of his housemanship training, he continued his basic surgical training in the UK and obtained his MRCS diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2005. He continued his training in Plastic and Reconstructive surgery in the northwest of England and had gained extensive experience in managing plastic and burns patients. He returned to Malaysia in late 2011 when he joined the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in Kuantan as a clinical lecturer. He obtained his master's degree in Plastic Surgery from USM in 2015. He had worked at HUSM and HKL which involved managing complex wounds and utilizing various kinds of modern dressings. Currently, he is a full-time lecturer and plastic & reconstructive surgeon at the IIUM Kuantan.

ISBN 978-967-418-711-8



IIUM Press

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