



**Thank you for considering Larval Therapy as a wound debridement option.**

**We understand that you may have a lot of questions, let us answer them for you.**

## **What is Larval Therapy?**

Larval Therapy (also known as Maggot Therapy or Biosurgery) is a natural form of wound debridement (cleaning) using the living larvae of the greenbottle fly species called *Lucilia sericata*. The larvae of the greenbottle fly are safe to use and the treatment has a long and successful history. BioMonde has a modern approach to Larval Therapy and packages the larvae within a sealed dressing called BioBag.

## **What is Larval Therapy used for?**

Larval Therapy is indicated for the debridement (cleaning) of many chronic and hard to heal wounds. These include lower extremity ulcers (diabetic, venous, arterial and pressure ulcers); surgical wounds and post-traumatic wounds. Debridement is the removal of unviable tissue and bacteria from a wound to allow progression through the wound healing process.



## **How does Larval Therapy work?**

Larvae do not have teeth so they do not bite or chew, instead they produce and release liquid secretions onto the wound. The secretions break down the devitalised tissue and bacteria into a liquid which the larvae ingest as nutrition.



# Patient Information Guide

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## Why should I use Larval Therapy?

Larval Therapy is a common treatment for non-healing wounds because it is often considered as being a quick and effective way to help a wound progress towards healing. Your healthcare professional may have identified Larval Therapy as being an appropriate treatment option for you because Larvae are thought to be able to remove things from the wound that are slowing down wound healing or causing infection such as necrotic tissue and bacteria. Even though your healthcare professional may have identified you as being a suitable candidate for this treatment you should take time to ask questions, read this guide and hopefully decide that this is a treatment you are comfortable with.

## Where do the larvae come from?

BioMonde have been producing larvae for wound care since 1994. BioMonde has specialist pharmaceutical facilities in the UK and Germany which house the greenbottle fly *Lucilia sericata*. The life cycle is nurtured to allow the creation of the fly larvae which are produced using an aseptic process. BioMonde are dedicated to your safety and work to strict quality standards.

## Will I feel the larvae on my wound?

Most people are unaware of the larvae's presence, although it would be normal to feel a tickling, pulsating or tingling sensation. Remember, with BioBag, the larvae will be contained within the dressing during treatment. Some patients, particularly those with poor circulation or painful/sensitive wounds, can experience an increase in pain during the treatment but this is typically controlled with pain relieving medication.

## How big are the larvae?

It might surprise you to hear that the larvae of the greenbottle fly species we use, *Lucilia sericata*, are very small. Smaller than larvae you may have seen on television and definitely smaller than the image you will have in your mind. They are only a few millimeters in length when they are first applied to your wound and they grow no larger than 12mm after four days.

We hope that this guide has answered some of your questions and wish you every success with your Larval Therapy treatment.

For further information, please visit [www.biomonde.com](http://www.biomonde.com)

## What does the treatment process entail?

BioBag dressings are very easy to use and are simply placed on top of your wound much like a conventional dressing. They are then covered with moist gauze and a breathable wound pad and the dressing is secured using a bandage or tape. From the outside it should look the same as your usual dressing. Each treatment stays in place for up to four days and the outer dressing is changed daily.

Larval Therapy can be applied in your home, in any healthcare facility or outpatient clinic. On average one to three treatments are needed to achieve successful wound cleaning. Your healthcare professional should assess your wound at application and at the end of the treatment to ensure successful debridement and that the correct follow-on treatment is used.

## What should I consider during treatment?

Whilst it's possible to carry out most normal activities during treatment, you should ideally avoid bathing or immersing the wound in water; sitting with the wound too close to a source of heat (e.g. fire or radiator); and sitting or walking on the wound. You may also notice some changes in the wound, including a dark red or pink discharge and a characteristic smell amongst the wound (particularly if there is a lot of dead tissue). However, these changes are nothing to worry about and are simply caused by the activity of the larvae.



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