

INTRODUCTION

To ensure the best outcome for patients, advanced wound care dressings are designed to meet the end user requirements, these are identified as critical design features.

ActivHeal® advanced wound care range includes Aquafiber Extra a high performance alginate dressing indicated for moderate to heavily exuding wounds.

ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra is an innovative combination of CMC and Alginate Fibres with a hidden integrity layer that supports the high tensile strength while being soft, conformable and gelling upon contact with exudate.

Performance testing aligned with international standards and validated in-house methods are used to assess critical design features and have been tested *in-vitro* and compared to a standard alginate dressings to show the advanced performance of ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra.

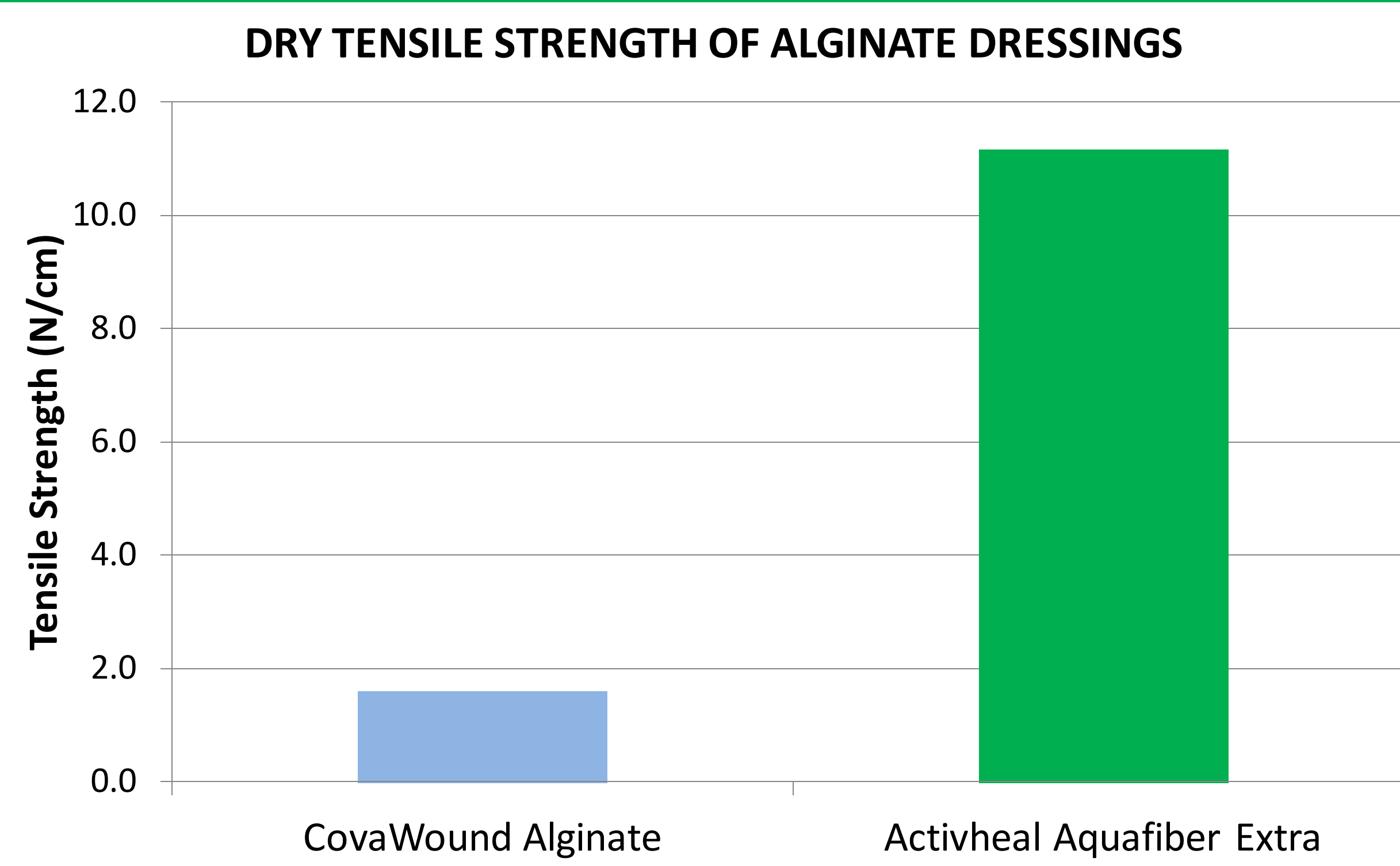
DRY STRENGTH

CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Dry strength is a critical design parameter for alginate and fibre dressings to ensure the dressing is integral on application. If a dressing has low dry strength there is a higher risk that the dressing may disintegrate on application, leaving the wound exposed.

METHOD

This test method cuts a portion of the dressing of a known width and length, and puts it in a tensometer. The tensometer pulls the dressing at a known speed and measures the maximum and average force required to destroy the dressing. The force required is measured in Newtons per centimetre (N/cm).



ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra is significantly stronger when dry compared to CovaWound alginate.

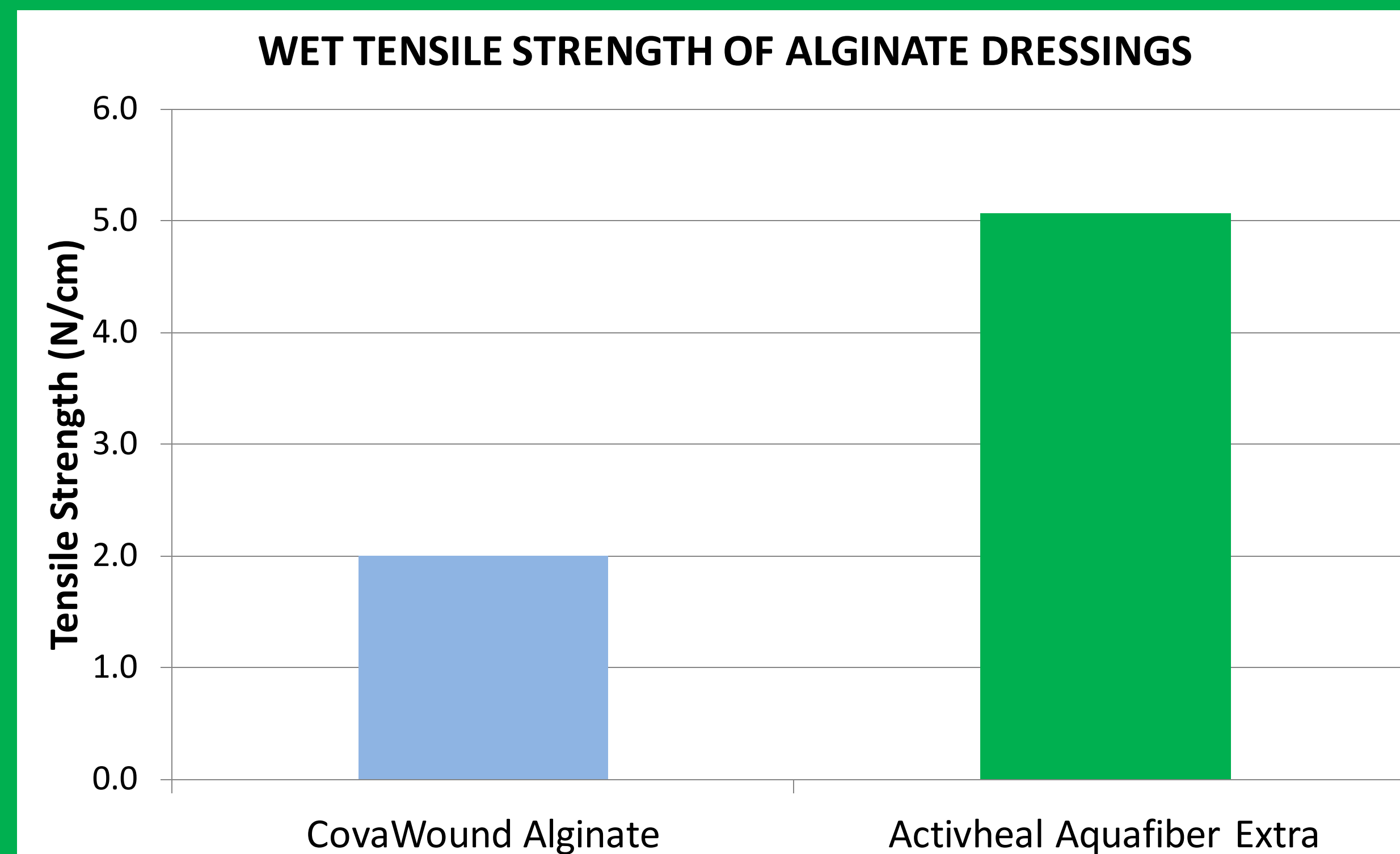
WET STRENGTH

CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Wet strength is a critical design parameter for alginate and fibre dressings to ensure the dressing is integral on removal. If a dressing has low wet strength there is a higher risk that the dressing may disintegrate on removal, leaving parts of the dressing in the wound.

METHOD

This test method cuts a portion of the dressing of a known width and length, and puts it in a tensometer. The tensometer pulls the dressing at a known speed and measures the maximum and average force required to destroy the dressing. The force required is measured in Newtons per centimetre (N/cm).



ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra is significantly stronger when wet compared to CovaWound alginate.

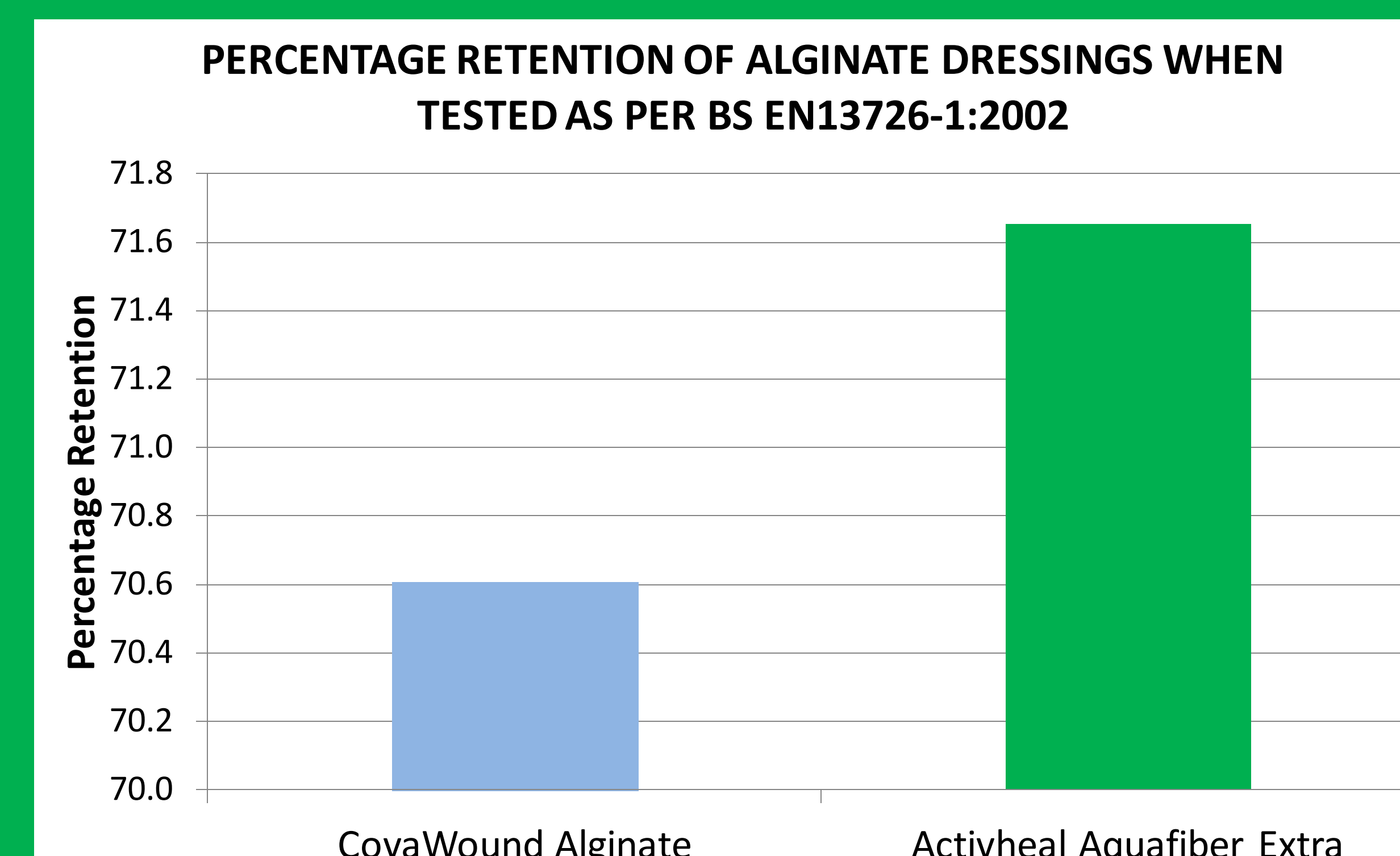
RETENTION

CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Dressings are assessed on their ability to absorb fluid freely and ability to retain the fluid. A dressing with poor retention may cause microorganisms absorbed from the exudate may be released back into the wound which may cause infection and delay healing; retention assists in maintaining a moist, not wet, wound environment whilst reducing the risk of maceration.

METHOD

Retention is tested *in-vitro* as per BS EN13726-1:2002. A sample of the dressing is saturated with 37°C Solution A for 30 minutes, this assesses the free-swell absorbency of the dressing; the dressing has a block equivalent to 40mmHg applied to compress the dressing; the amount of fluid absorbed and retained is calculated by weighing the dressing.



ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra retains more fluid when compared to CovaWound alginate.

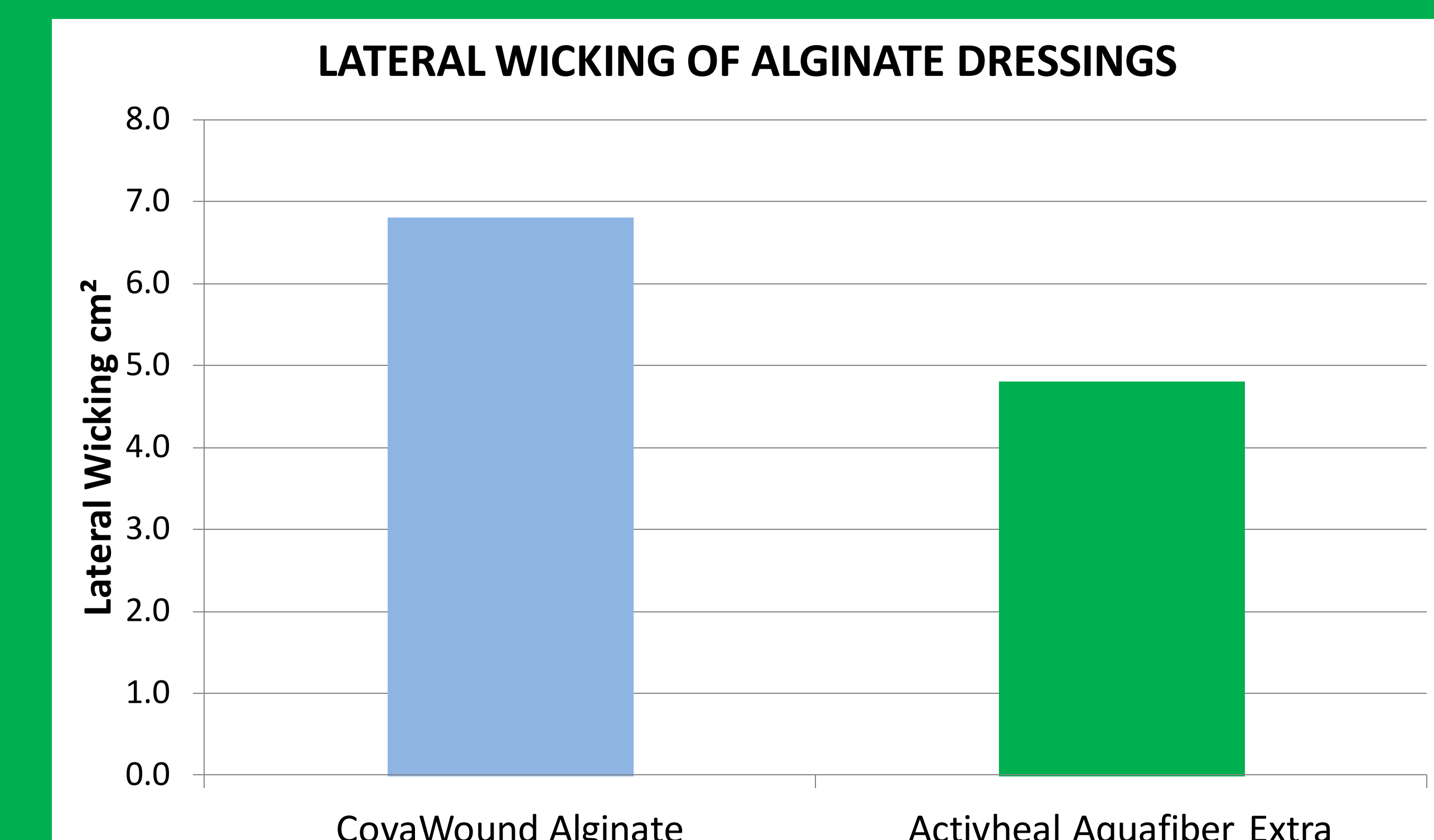
LATERAL WICKING

CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Lateral wicking is the spread of the absorbed exudate. It is preferred to have a lower wicking dressing to prevent the exudate spreading to healthy periwound skin. If the dressing is high wicking, the absorbed exudate could spread through the dressing to the healthy periwound skin and cause maceration, therefore the a lower wicking dressing is preferred.

METHOD

This in house, validated method dips a sample of the dressing into a coloured solution by a known depth, this is left in the solution for 30 seconds and the spread of the solution through the dressing is measured using a calibrated calliper and converted in to area.



ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra has lower wicking when compared to CovaWound alginate.

SUMMARY

ActivHeal® constructs their dressings with high quality materials to improve the outcome for the patient.

ActivHeal® Aquafiber Extra provides the optimal wound healing environment by having excellent absorbency, retention and strength when applied and removed the wound. Managing wound exudate protects the periwound area and progresses wound healing.