

Burns

Bromelain supports healing

TÜBINGEN, GERMANY. The enzyme Bromelain which is extracted from the pineapple stem helps remove the tissue that was damaged by deep burns, so the BG Clinic Tübingen (BG, Bundesgenossenschaft, Federal Cooperative Association).

'A Bromelain containing gel, that is applied to the skin in an exact manner, disintegrates all destroyed tissue parts and ensures a dedicated treatment of the concerned areas', according to Professor Hans-Eberhard Schaller, Director of the centre for severely burned patients at the BG Clinic in Tübingen.

This way, healthy tissue is saved and also blood loss is significantly lower than with traditional surgical procedures using scalpel or high pressure water cleaning.

'If during the further wound treatment grafts of the own skin are necessary, more healthy tissue will be available to the treating physician after the enzyme treatment than it is often the case after a surgical wound cleaning.'

Currently, the gel may only be used once per wound, as there is still limited scientific data regarding multiple treatments of the same wound area, the press release stated.

'Additionally, the treated wound area should not be larger than 15 percent of the whole body surface of the patient', adds Schaller. The innovative treatment can currently only be used in special burn centres. *(eb)*