

NHS could save millions by supporting portable NPWT

The NHS could save money by supporting the increased use of portable negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) devices in the community.

Now that NPWT is available for community use, the NHS could potentially save millions by supporting its use for patients with chronic wounds.

With portable NPWT devices, patients can leave the hospital and receive treatment in the community at an estimated cost of £38.50 per day, compared with the daily cost of a hospital stay at

£288. For an average NPWT treatment duration of 20 days, the estimated savings through using community care are £4,814 per patient. This also leaves hospital beds free for those who need them.

In hospitals where NPWT is already being used in the community, the benefits have already been recognised and further contracts are being agreed upon for more devices.

To read the study visit <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1742-481X.2011.00913.x/full>

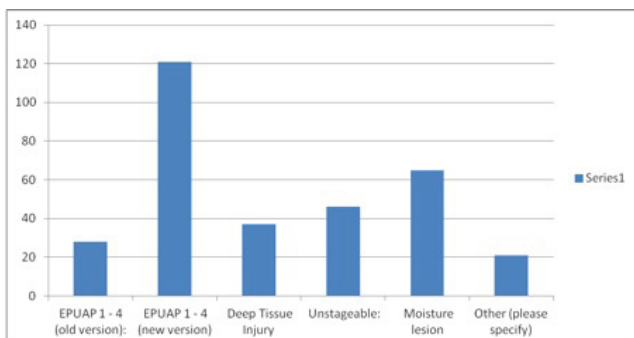


Credit: comedy_nose on Flickr.

Survey reports that comparison of pressure ulcer data is flawed

A recent survey of 147 organisations in England suggests that the comparison of pressure ulcer data is fundamentally flawed because there are discrepancies in what is collected and how audits are carried out.

Tissue viability nurses from across England reported using differing pressure ulcer grading tools. There are major differences in how they determine if a pressure ulcer is unavoidable or developed in their care.



This is concerning as the occurrence of pressure ulceration is included in the recent operating framework as a marker of quality care.

The full results of the survey, completed as part of a Tissue Viability Society working group, will be presented in the next issue of *Wounds UK*.

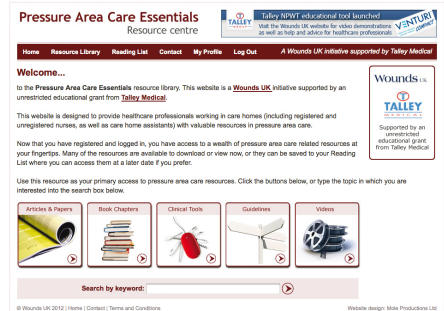
Free pressure care resources online

The Wounds UK microsite, Pressure Area Care Essentials, has been updated to include new videos and articles for healthcare professionals working in care homes.

The Pressure Area Care Essentials site, supported by Wounds UK and Talley Medical, is aimed at registered and unregistered nurses, as well as care home assistants, who would like to expand their knowledge on pressure area care. Most resources are downloadable or available for online viewing. Otherwise, subscribers can save their preferred resources on their reading list for ongoing access.

Resources include articles, book chapters, clinical tools such as pocket guides, guidelines and videos.

For more information visit <http://www.pressure-care-essentials.co.uk/index.php>



One-day wound assessment event



Credit: Tim Green on Flickr.

The University of Huddersfield, UK, is hosting a one-day event for clinicians focused on wound assessment and product selection.

The course will be held on 14 June, 2012 and will feature a range of wound care topics, including the principles of wound assessment, evidence for wound bed preparation and dressing selection, surgical wound management, and wound infection recognition.

Lymphoedema gene mutation discovered in recent study

A recent study has found a mutation in a gene, which causes lymphoedema as well as eye problems and microcephaly (reduced head size).

The gene KIF11 has been linked to a condition called microcephaly-lymphoedema-chorioretinal dysplasia (MLCRD), which is a genetic disorder affecting the head, eyes and limbs. The discovery, published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, is thought to be important for the prevention and

treatment of lymphoedema.

Five patients with MLCRD were examined and their genes sequenced, leading to the discovery of the gene mutation the patients all had in common. This was then also confirmed in 24 other patients' DNA sequences. The mutation has an impact on protein function and affects the lymphatic system.

To read the study visit <http://www.cell.com/AJHG/retrieve/pii/S0002929711005532>



Credit: _rockinfree on Flickr.

Clinic offers scientific outsourcing

A new company has been established to provide clinical and scientific outsourcing services to the healthcare industries. Perfectus Medical Ltd consists of a team of individuals who test medical devices, wound dressings and biocides, designed primarily for use in chronic wound healing. They design, plan and carry out standard and bespoke microbial testing with an emphasis on biofilm testing and randomised clinical trials.

The company's laboratories are located in Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus, Cheshire. This setting provides a stimulating environment for innovation with collaboration and networking at its heart.

Keith Cutting, who has a long established reputation in wound care and medical devices, is the clinical and business director of Perfectus Medical. Samantha Westgate, heads up the scientific research and development components and also manages the laboratory work on a day-to-day basis.

Perfectus Medical encourages and facilitates the publication of sound scientific data in recognised journals to aid healthcare practitioners through education.

Biological reconstruction prevents amputation in Asia



Patients with bone cancer in South Asia are being aided to avoid amputation with a new bone reconstruction method.

HealthCare Global Enterprises (HCG) is the largest cancer care network in South Asia and has 18 centres that treat over 28,000 patients a year. HCG has been promoting a new technique called Biological Reconstruction Surgery to prevent amputations in bone cancer patients, which involves using donor bone to

reconstruct patients' limbs.

'The limb saving surgeries improve the quality of life for the patients, where they can perform their basic activities on their own,' said Dr Pramod Chinder, Consultant, Ortho Oncologist, HCG. 'When amputation is advised for patients, it's always better to seek a second opinion from the specialists, as there are lots of cases where amputation was advised and we have successfully preserved the patient's limb.'

For more information visit www.hcgoncology.com/hcg-blog

Credit: DVIDSHUB on Flickr.

Therapy system reverses diabetic peripheral neuropathy

A new therapy using nitric oxide helps the development of new cells, improving circulation and restoring sensation in diabetic feet.

Diabetic peripheral neuropathy occurs when blood flow to the organs and limbs decreases. Patients often experience nerve damage, developing an increased risk of amputation. Diabetic patients often have a nitric oxide level far below normal, yet nitric oxide is one of the body's natural vasodilators and is needed for circulation.

The Anodyne® Therapy System (Anodyne® Therapy) uses topical heat and wavelengths (890nm) of near infrared light energy to stimulate and release local nitric oxide into an area. This increases white blood cells allowing for natural healing and infection control. The treatment helps fibroblasts to secrete growth factors, and decreases pain and inflammation.

For more information visit http://www.anodynetherapy.ca/nitric_oxide_part10.html



Credit: SMercury98

Honey heals 10-year-old fistulae

A recent case study has shown that γ -irradiated honeydew honey was effective in treating several gluteal, femoral and scrotal fistulae.

A 55-year-old patient was treated for several 10-year-old perianal fistulae caused by intramuscular injections in the gluteal area. The fistulae cultures tested positive for several bacterium including oxacillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus haemolyticus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Proteus mirabilis*. The honey was diluted with sterile solution or used undiluted and was directly applied to the fistulae.

After 10 days, the fistulae became less odorous, and within five months the fistulas in the gluteofemoral left region were completely healed. All remaining fistulae did not show any signs of inflammation or induration. The treatment showed a greater improvement than at any point in the past 10 years.

Perianal fistulae mostly affect those with Crohn's disease or are followed by infections, such as trauma, diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis, hidradenitis suppurativa (skin disease affecting the glands) and malignancy.

To read the study visit www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com

NHS Framework looks at outcomes

The NHS Outcomes framework document sets out recent changes that are designed to help NHS organisations focus on what outcomes mean in practical terms. The document presents:

- ▶ One framework defining how the NHS will be accountable for outcomes
- ▶ Five domains articulating the responsibilities of the NHS
- ▶ Twelve overarching indicators covering the broad aims of each domain

- ▶▶ Twenty seven improvement areas looking in more detail at key areas within each domain
- ▶▶ Sixty indicators in total measuring overarching and improvement area outcomes.

Of particular interest to tissue viability health care professionals is the domain: 'Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.'

The improvement areas cited in the

Department of Health document include reducing the following:

- ▶▶ The incidence of avoidable harm
- ▶▶ Incidence of hospital-related venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- ▶▶ Incidence of healthcare-associated infection (HCAI)
- ▶▶ Incidence of newly acquired category 2, 3 and 4 pressure ulcers
- ▶▶ Incidence of medication errors causing serious harm.

To read the *The NHS Outcomes Framework 2012/13* visit www.dh.gov.uk

Pressure ulcer change package

A National Tissue Viability Programme change package published July 2011, identifies and establishes recommended interventions which have been proven to collectively bring about improvements in pressure area care.

A National Tissue Viability Programme in Scotland is sponsored by the Chief Nursing Office Directorate, and is led and hosted by Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

For more information visit www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Patient news hits You Tube



The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) has its own channel on YouTube and has launched the first in a series of Patient News Update podcasts.

The topics covered in this first edition are the launch of the SIGN app and a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) patient leaflet.

The SIGN Patient News Update can be accessed at www.youtube.com/user/SIGNGuideline.

Funding secured for skin cancer graft technology

EktoTherix™ (Neotherix Limited), a novel regenerative tissue scaffold for the repair of surgical wounds or following skin cancer has won funding to complete its clinical trials for launch in 2014.

The Technology Strategy Board in the UK will be funding a significant portion of the last stages for developing EktoTherix for launch.

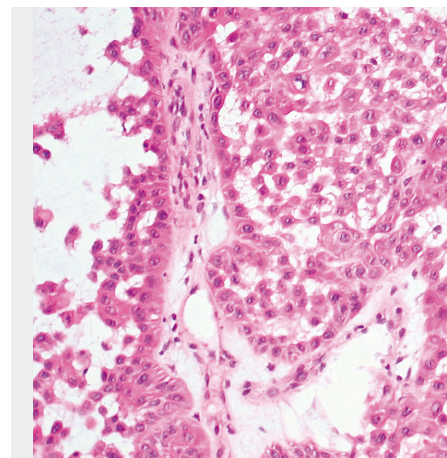
EktoTherix is a patch that can be used following removal of the basal or squamous cell carcinoma, which allows for the patient's skin to fill and cover the wound space. This is beneficial, as it does not require skin from a donor site, and is more aesthetically pleasing. The patch provides a 3D architecture for healthy skin to grow in and around, healing and protecting the wound site.

'We are delighted and proud to have gained further Technology Strategy Board funding, which will move the development of the product towards

full commercialisation,' said Dr Mike Raxworthy, CEO of Neotherix Limited.

'This builds on preclinical testing to confirm efficacy and safety, on manufacturing trials and work done to explore the pathways currently followed by patients with skin cancer.'

For more information visit www.neotherix.com.



Credit: eutman on Flickr.

Online Wiki for surgical treatment

A wiki resource site has been launched online for clinicians to contribute and share information on surgical treatments, including wound healing.

Blackwell Publishing Asia has recently released the website SurgWiki, where information can be shared by third parties. The site, similar to the popular site Wikipedia, is based on surgical practice and covers topics such as surgical techniques, peri-operative care and specialist subjects. Anyone can contribute and edit the site information, with the requirement

that they back up their information with evidence.

For more information visit www.surgwiki.com.



Credit: ifcherry on Flickr.

Welsh pressure ulcer guidance

The All Wales Tissue Viability Nurse Forum has produced a new guidance document on pressure ulcers for healthcare practitioners.

Titled *The Essential Elements of Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management*, the document is based

on the recent Pressure Ulcer Guidelines issued by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) and the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP).

For more information visit www.welshwoundnetwork.org.



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