

# WOUND DIGEST

## SELECTED PAPERS OF INTEREST

1. The Canadian Bandaging Trial: Evidence-informed leg ulcer care and the effectiveness of two compression technologies.

2. Efficacy and safety of a gauze pad containing hyaluronic acid in treatment of leg ulcers of venous or mixed origin: a double-blind, randomised, controlled trial.

In each Wounds UK supplement, the digest summarises, in turn, recent key papers in the areas of pressure ulcers, skin integrity, diabetic foot ulcers and venous leg ulcers.

### 1 The Canadian Bandaging Trial: evidence-informed leg ulcer care and the effectiveness of two compression technologies

Readability	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Relevance to daily practice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Novelty factor	✓	✓	✓		

▶▶ A study to determine the effectiveness of evidence-based practice in the community care of venous leg ulcers using two high compression systems — four-layer (4LB) and short-stretch bandaging (SSB).

▶▶ The study was a multi-centre, parallel-group, open-label, randomised controlled trial conducted in 10 centres.

▶▶ The subjects were cognitively intact adults (≥18 years) referred for community care with venous ulceration measuring ≥0.7cm and present for ≥1 week and an ankle brachial pressure index (ABPI) ≥0.8.

▶▶ Subjects were randomly allocated to receive either 4LB or SSB.

▶▶ The 424 individuals were randomised and followed until ulcers were healed (or maximum 30 months). Median time to ulcer healing in the 4LB group was 62 days, compared with 77 days in the SSB group. Analysis revealed that the difference in the distribution of cumulative healing times was not significant between the two groups. At three-months post-baseline there were no differences in pain or health-related quality of life.

▶▶ The most common adverse events experienced by both groups included infection, skin breakdown and ulcer deterioration.

▶▶ The trial revealed that in the context of trained RNs using an evidence-informed protocol, the choice of bandage system does not materially affect healing times, recurrence rates, health-related quality of life or pain.

Harrison MB, VanDenKerkhof EG, Hopman WM, et al (2011) The Canadian Bandaging Trial: Evidence-informed leg ulcer care and the effectiveness of two compression technologies. *BMC Nursing* 10(1): 20

### 2 Efficacy and safety of a gauze pad containing hyaluronic acid in treatment of leg ulcers of venous or mixed origin: a double-blind, randomised, controlled trial

Readability	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Relevance to daily practice	✓	✓	✓		
Novelty factor	✓	✓	✓	✓	

▶▶ Topical hyaluronic acid (HA) is routinely used in the treatment of chronic wounds.

▶▶ This 60-day double-blind, randomised, controlled superiority trial was designed to investigate the efficacy and safety of a gauze pad containing HA in local treatment of venous leg ulcers.

▶▶ The study included 89 patients and the primary endpoint was the percentage of wound size reduction after 45 days.

▶▶ Results showed that the percentage of ulcer surface reduction was significantly greater in the HA group versus the neutral control group. The number of healed ulcers was significantly higher in the HA group at day 45 and day 60.

▶▶ At day 30, pain intensity was significantly lower in the HA group. Tolerance of both treatments was comparable in the two groups.

▶▶ HA gauze pad was more effective than the neutral vehicle on wound size reduction, healed ulcers rate and pain management.

Humbert P, Mikosinki J, Benchikhi H, Allaert FA (2012) Efficacy and safety of a gauze pad containing hyaluronic acid in treatment of leg ulcers of venous or mixed origin: a double-blind, randomised, controlled trial. *Int Wound J*. 2012 Mar 8. doi: 10.1111/j.1742-481X.2012.00957.x

To compile the digest a Medline search was performed for the three months ending in March, 2012 using the search term 'leg ulcers'. Papers have been chosen on the basis of their potential interest to practitioners involved in day-to-day wound care. The papers were rated according to readability, applicability to daily practice and novelty factor.