

Meeting reports

Smith & Nephew Roadshows 2008

This year's Smith & Nephew/Wounds UK Wound Care Roadshows proved to be a resounding success. The plan seemed ambitious in the beginning with the aim being to reach as many nurses as possible in a relatively short period of time. The result was 40 events around the UK, with more than 3,500 delegates and 20 top UK speakers all in the space of six weeks. The key message from the events was the need to address all the issues which affect patients who present with wounds. Identifying the patients' needs and fears were the central themes and the focus was on the issues of infection, pain, odour and psychosocial aspects of having a chronic wound.

In the field of wound care there is a temptation to focus on the wound without standing back and looking at the patient as an individual and part of society, and how the wound can affect their self-perception. Pain has been a central theme of wound care for a number of years and in particular the pain which can be caused by dressings which adhere to the wound bed and surrounding skin.

Another key issue which was discussed was the impact of infection on the patient and on the NHS. Recent outbreaks of healthcare-associated infections have led to a loss of trust in the service and a need for reassurance for patients in our care.

David Gray, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Grampian NHS Trust and Clinical Director of Wounds UK, appeared in a video presentation at each event

in which he discussed patient case studies in which new products from Smith & Nephew were reviewed in the department of tissue viability at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The new range of products include Allevyn Gentle, Allevyn Gentle Border and Allevyn Ag. The focus of Allevyn Gentle is to address the problem of painful dressing removal using new technology. This dressing has proven to be a very comfortable dressing which is easily removed from the wound without damaging the surrounding skin.

Allevyn Ag contains silver sulphadiazine which is an antimicrobial agent and can help to reduce the bacterial burden in wounds. The case studies shown at the event highlighted the need to regularly review patient care and that nurses should be able to change and adapt treatments according to the needs of the individual patient in order to improve the patients' quality of life.

These events were supported by large numbers of nurses across the country and demonstrate that there is a genuine appetite for wound care education in all parts of the UK.

John Timmons, Editor, Wounds UK

View the Roadshow video at <http://www.wounds-uk.com/roadshows/index.shtml>

Tissue Viability Society National Conference 2-3 April 2008

Spring 2008 saw the Tissue Viability Society host a successful national conference in Peterborough. With more than 40 exhibitors and 400 delegates the event proved to be highly attractive

to senior tissue viability practitioners and researchers. Concurrent sessions were also delivered which were aimed at less experienced tissue viability colleagues. The programme allowed delegates to hear established researchers from across the UK and Europe with invited speakers from Belgium, Israel, Italy and the Netherlands. With more than 20 free paper presentations and 30 posters, interest in tissue viability within the UK appears to be high. The TVS also presented a draft version of its new pressure ulcers and seating clinical practice guidelines at the event. These will be made available for wider comment before the presentation of the final version at the EPUAP conference in September 2008.

The Journal of Tissue Viability continues to grow in strength with the second issue published by Elsevier Ltd sent to members in April. The next issue of the journal during the summer will feature the abstracts from the 2008 TVS conference. All TVS members have now been provided with passwords to allow them to access the current and recent issues of the journal online. It is intended that members will be able to access a wider range of past issues online later in 2008. The print and electronic versions of the journal are only available to TVS members and membership can be obtained on the Tissue Viability Society website at www.tvs.org.uk.

Details of the 2009 TVS conference will be forthcoming over the summer with an early call for free papers expected this autumn.

Trudie Young, Lecturer, School of Health Care Sciences, University of Wales

Articles for submission

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