

Meeting reports

Wound Infection Conference sponsored by Activa Healthcare, 23 June 2009, Telford International Conference Centre

This year's Wounds Essentials Summer Conference also hosted a specialist infection control in wound healing conference sponsored by Activa Healthcare. With wound infection being a particular burden on tight NHS resources, the conference was timely. Dr Andrew Melling (Senior Lecturer, Northumbria University) opened the day with an examination of the impact of wound infection on the individual and society. David Leaper, Chair of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Surgical Site Infection (SSI) guidelines, presented the development of the SSI guideline and gave some examples of best practice in this field. An overview of relevant microbiology, including resistance and biofilms was eloquently provided by Rose Cooper (Professor of Microbiology, University of Wales Institute). As always, Professor Cooper gave food for thought, with regards to our ability to detect the presence of bacteria.

Richard White (Professor of Tissue Viability, University of Worcester) ended the morning with a comprehensive overview of polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB) and the evidence for its use in wound care today. The afternoon session was given over to Simon Barrett (Clinical Nurse Specialist, Hull)

who presented a number of case reports, demonstrating the practical management of patients with wound infection and the variety of treatment options available.

John Timmons, Clinical Manager, Wounds UK

Wound Essentials Summer Conference, 23 June 2009, Telford International Conference Centre

Wound care can be both exciting and frustrating. Clinical expertise is constantly challenged when assessing, diagnosing and deciding upon the most appropriate and effective treatment to achieve the best clinical outcome for the patient. In addition, wound infection can be difficult to diagnose and treat — these were just some of the challenges that the sessions at Wound Essentials Summer Conference explored.

The day provided clinicians with a holistic approach to wounds. The presentations, by experts in their field, were both passionate and clinically challenging. Lorraine Grothier (CNS Tissue Viability, Middlesex PCT) presented on methods and treatments in wound debridement; Pauline Beldon (Tissue Viability Nurse Consultant, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust) spoke about the challenges of exudate management, and finally Fiona Russell (Nurse Consultant, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary) discussed the promotion of granulation tissue.

Delegates were also fortunate to have an update on infection from Kathy Leak (Sister, Wound Care Service, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), with emphasis being placed on the various topical antimicrobials available and their clinical efficacy. Paul Chadwick (Principal Podiatrist, Hope Hospital, Salford) discussed the management of the diabetic foot, not only addressing assessment and treatment but also the long-term holistic management of the patient, highlighting the benefits of specialist clinics for this patient group. Richard Buckland (Tissue Viability Nurse, County Durham Primary Care Trust) brought clarity to a challenge we all face: making sense of pressure-reducing equipment in both the hospital and community setting.

Delegates were also able to visit the large and extensive exhibition which provided clinical expertise, product samples and literature for all technologies involved in the maintenance of skin integrity and wound care.

Together, the Wound Essentials Summer Conference and the Wound Infection Control Conference, held in Telford on 23 June, offered comprehensive and challenging programmes.

**Pam Cooper, Clinical Manager/
Programme Director, Wounds UK**

Articles for submission

If you would like to write for Wounds UK please contact
Binkie Mais (binkie.mais@wounds-uk.com)