

Editor Tracy Cowan

Group Commercial Director Ben Allen

Circulation Director Sally Boettcher

Publisher Tom Pollard

Associate Publisher Anthony Kerr

Editorial Advisory Board

Jan Apelqvist: MD, PhD, Malmö, Sweden

Andrea Cavicchioli: RN, MSc (Nurs), TVN, Lugano, Switzerland

George W. Cherry: MA (Oxon), DPhil (Oxon), Oxford, UK

Mark Collier: BA (Hons), RNT, RCNT, ONC, RN, Grantham, UK

Vincent Falanga: MD, FACP, Rhode Island, USA

Jeff Hart: BSc, PhD, Leeds, UK

Morris Kerstein: MD, Philadelphia, USA

Brenda King: ONC, RN, DN, B Med Sci, MMed Sci, Sheffield, UK

Lucy Land: RN, DPSN, BSc (Nurs), PGCE, RNT, Birmingham, UK

Christina Lindholm: RN, PhD, Stockholm, Sweden

Courtney Lyder: ND, GNP, FAAN, Charlottesville, USA

Norihiko Ohura: MD, Tokyo, Japan

Tania Phillips: MD, Boston, USA

Elia Ricci: MD, Turin, Italy

Marco Romanelli: MD, PhD, Pisa, Italy

Hiromi Sanada: PhD, RN, WOCN, Tokyo, Japan

Salla Seppanen: MNsc, RN, Mikkeli, Finland

José Verdú Soriano: PhD, MSc (Nurs), BN, RN, Alicante, Spain

Luc Téot: MD, Montpellier, France

David Voegeli: PhD, BSc, RN, PGCEA, Southampton, UK

Kathryn Vowden: MSc, BSc (Hons), RN, Bradford, UK

Peter Vowden: MB, CMB (Leeds), FRCS, MD (Leeds), Bradford, UK

Trudie Young: RMN, RN, DN, BN, MSc, PGCE, Bangor, UK

Thomas Zgonis: DPM, FACFAS, San Antonio, USA

Reviewers

Irene Anderson: MSc, BSc Hons, DPSN, PGCE, LPE, RGN, UK

Ben Appleby: MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCert Ed, RN, UK

Paul Chadwick: MSc, BSc (Hons), DPod M, HPC, UK

Rose Cooper: BSc, PhD, PGCE C.Biol, MIBiol and FRSA, UK

Tom Defloor: RN, PhD, Belgium

Contents

R 373 A national prevalence study of pressure ulcers in French hospital inpatients

This study, undertaken in October 2004, identified a prevalence rate of 8.9%. This is based on data relating to all inpatients, except those in accident and emergency, in 94% of hospitals in France. A similar study undertaken 10 years previously identified a prevalence rate of 8.6%. Both rates are similar to those reported in other prevalence studies in industrialised countries. Nevertheless, the similarity between the two prevalence rates does not reflect inadequate use of prevention strategies as patients in the present study were older and had less severe ulcers than those in the 1994 study **B. Barrois, C. Labalette, P. Rousseau, A. Corbin, D. Colin, F. Allaert, J.L. Saumet**

P 380 Management of a hypertensive ulcer with an epidermal growth factor-based formulation

Martorell's ulcer is a rare, painful, lower extremity, ischaemic ulcer associated with poorly controlled hypertension. Management is based on controlling the hypertension and standard wound care. One ulcer healed completely when this treatment was combined with intralesional administration of a formulation containing epidermal growth factor **C. Hernández-Cañete, B.Y. Betancourt**

P 384 Clinical experiences of using a silver hydroalginate dressing in Austria, Switzerland and Germany

Use of Silvercel in 76 patients with colonised or infected wounds attending 12 wound-care centres in Austria, Switzerland and Germany was surveyed in this retrospective study. The test dressing was used to provide a sustained microbial action, absorb wound exudate and maintain a moist healing environment. Forty-one of the 57 patients with infected wounds responded well to the treatment; the severity of infection in the remaining wounds subsided. Ongoing wound pain reduced in the large majority of patients **G. Kammerlander, R. Afarideh, A. Baumgartner, M. Berger, K. Fischelmayer, G. Hirschberger, W. Hangler, A. Huber, M. Kramml, E. Locherer, C. Scandella, A. Süss-Burkhard, P. Wipplinger**

389 Whose wound is it anyway? Issues relating to wound photograph

The ease with which digital clinical images can be downloaded means they are being increasingly used in the public domain

PERM

P ractice

E ducation

R esearch

M anagement

without the original owner's and more importantly the patient's consent. A debate is needed to establish a consensus on how to define ownership and consent in this context. A grievance procedure is also needed for the wrongful use of such images J. Fletcher

Jeannie Donnelly: PhD, BSc (Hons), Dip Wound Healing and Tissue Repair, RN, ONC, UK

Val Edwards-Jones: FIBMS, PhD, Cert Medical Laboratory Management, UK

Julie Evans: RGN, Dip HE Nurs, Dip Tissue Viability, Dip Emergency Nursing, UK

Madeleine Flanagan: MSc (Distinction), BSc (Hons), Dip Nursing (London), RN, ONC, UK

Manuel Gago-Forenells: RN, Masters in Nursing, Spain

Francisco Pedro García-Fernández: RN, Masters in Nursing, Spain

Georgina Gethin: HRB-Research Fellow Clinical Nursing and Midwifery, RGN, HE Dip Wound Care, Dip Anatomy, Dip Physiology (PhD Student), Ireland

Patricia Grocott: PhD, BSc (Hons) DipN (Lond), RGN, UK

Matthew Hardman: PhD, Bsc (Hons), UK

Alan Lansdown: PhD, FRCPath, UK

Matthew Leach: RN, BN (Hons), ND, PhD, Australia

Menna Lloyd Jones: MSc, DipN, RGN, SCM, PGCE, UK

Zena Moore: RGN, MSc, FFMRCIS, Ireland

E.Andrea Nelson: BSc (Hons), PhD, RGN, UK

Pedro L. Pancorbo-Hidalgo: PhD, RN, Spain

Elaine Ricci: PgD, BSc (Hons), UK

Lisette Schoonhoven: PhD, RN, the Netherlands

Gill Wicks: MSc, Dip (HE), RN, UK

Anthony M.Waddington: FCPodS, BSc (Hons), HND, UK

Vijay K. Shukla: MS (general surgery), MCh (Wales), India

E 392 Prophylactic antibiotics for clean, non-implant plastic surgery: what is the evidence?

The use of prophylactic antibiotics in clean surgery appears to be widespread, but their timing and selection is based on convention and personal and local departmental preferences rather than strong scientific evidence. However, the research evidence is not sufficiently robust to guide practice in this area. Large, well-designed randomised controlled trials are needed to gather more accurate and meaningful data S.Tadiparthi

E 399 Role of oxygen in wound healing

Research has identified the importance of oxygen in the healing process. It helps to promote angiogenesis and collagen synthesis, ensure effective leucocyte and fibroblast function, and produce growth factors and reactive oxygen species. This overview examines the evidence on the role of oxygen in acute wound healing. Much of this research was conducted either *in vitro* or in animal studies. More clinical trials are needed to assess the optimum oxygen levels needed for effective wound healing A. Bishop

E 405 Use of barrier products in the prevention of adhesion formation following surgery

Formation of postoperative adhesions is an inevitable consequence of intra-abdominal surgery. Adhesion-related complications, which include small bowel obstruction, infertility, prolonged surgery with a higher complication rate and possibly chronic abdominal pain, place a considerable burden on the health-care system in terms of cost and service. This paper describes the clinical use of anti-adhesion barrier membranes as a method of preventing adhesions, and outlines the beneficial and potentially harmful effects B. Darmas

369 Editorial

388 Bulletin board

412 Author guidelines



Cover picture:
Michael Kappeler/AFP/
Getty Images