HOW TLC DERIVED DRESSINGS ARE ACCEPTED BY PATIENTS? POOLING OF THE RESULTS OBTAINED FROM MORE THAN 14,000 PATIENTS

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Objectives: Patient satisfaction with dressing use is an important factor that influences both adhesion to local cares and probably time to complete healing, especially for chronic wounds. This is furthermore reinforced by the observation that the majority of outpatients change themselves their dressings. To evaluate this parameter, we conducted a pooling analysis of 10 field studies conducted in France between 2002 and 2007.

Methods: All these observational studies included outpatients seen during a usual medical visit for treatment of a chronic or acute wound. All patients were provided with an auto-questionnaire including a similar evaluation of their satisfaction with dressings. These questionnaires were completed at home within 15 to 30 days after the visit and directly returned by patients to a coordinating center.

Results: 6358 investigators included 31,245 patients. A questionnaire was returned by 14,703 subjects (response rate ranging from 36% to 75% according to studies). 53% of subjects were females. Patients’ age was >75 years in 25% of cases and 7% were children. 47% of wounds were acute (burns 36% and traumatic wounds 53% of acute wounds) and 53% were chronic (80% of venous leg ulcers). 63.2% of patients received a lipidocolloid (TLC) dressing and 30% a TLC/foam dressing. These dressings were silver-releasing in 18% of cases. 46.8% of patients performed at least more than 50% of their dressing changes without the help of a health professional. 95% of the population stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with their dressing and the same percentage answered they were certain to continue with the same device. These results were independent of patients’ age or of the nature of the wound.

Conclusion: “Modern” dressings such as TLC derived dressings are well accepted by patients. This high level of satisfaction might participate to a better adherence of subjects to their local cares.