Improving patient quality of life with innovative electroceutical technology

Teresa Greaves, Tissue Viability Nurse, The Willows Clinic, Bromley Healthcare CiC

Introduction

Leg ulcers are associated with continuous pain, restricted mobility and decreased quality of life (Persson et al., 2004; Jones et al., 2006). While patients with leg ulcers may report pain as a common complaint, it is also well known that many who experience this condition report high levels of pain. In addition, healing rates for leg ulcers have been found to take months to years. These findings suggest that there are many challenges for patients who have leg ulcers, and also for clinicians who treat these patients. This study aimed to improve the quality of life of patients with leg ulcers by providing innovative electroceutical technology in order to reduce pain and enhance healing. This study was carried out at Bromley Healthcare, a large acute hospital in South East London.

Method

All clinical staff were trained in the use and application of Accel-Heal therapy. There were three phases of the study: phase 1 ran from 8 October 2013 to 20 June 2014; phase 2 ran from 20 June 2014 to 11 October 2014; and phase 3 ran from 11 October 2014 to 10 November 2014. All patients and relatives, where appropriate, were asked to provide consent to participate in the study. Consent was obtained from all patients and relatives, where appropriate, except where deemed inappropriate by the staff treating the patient.

Discussion

Complex wounds present many challenges to health professionals. They also have a detrimental impact on the patients’ emotional, physical and social wellbeing and quality of life as demonstrated in the case study below.

Advanced modalities such as Accel-Heal used alongside standard treatment have been proven to provide positive clinical changes to complex wounds in these clinical case studies as well as previous clinical studies. (Swift 2013, Oveirs 2014 and Tadaj 2010). Additionally, these case studies demonstrate the clinical effectiveness in terms of pain relief, which is a key aspect as well as a treatment for complex wounds that have become chronic.

Conclusion

The improvement to quality of life and wellbeing of patients as a result of using advanced modalities such as Accel-Heal cannot be underestimated. Given the range of clinical and social/psychological evidence advanced modalities such as Accel-Heal should be considered and used as soon as possible by clinicians to help patients to regain their quality of life and improve their clinical outcomes.

As the case studies demonstrate complex wound management is not just about healing one’s wound, but also about helping the patient and their families to live a better quality of life. Further research is recommended to ensure all interventions address the person who are both in pain and timely, appropriate and essential to improve the overall quality of life and wellbeing.

References

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