



Effective Health Care

Treatment of Chronic Wounds

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Treatment of diabetic ulcers and other chronic wounds will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Organization

Nomination Summary: The nomination is concerned with the comparative effectiveness of treating chronic wounds or ischemic and/or diabetic ulcers on extremities with various treatment modalities, including vasodilation.

Staff-Generated PICO:

Population(s): Patients with chronic wounds, specifically diabetic, ischemic, and other ulcers located on the extremities caused by poor circulation, including medically underserved populations such as minorities, Native American /Alaskan natives, women, rural populations, uninsured, elderly, and disabled

Intervention(s): Wound care treatment via vasodilation of the circulatory system such as with the Vaso-Wraps product

Comparator(s): Other common treatment modalities including hyperbaric oxygen, topical agents, lifestyle changes, glucose management, debridement methods, bandages, self treatment, and no treatment

Outcome(s): Patient quality of life, wound healing, rates of lower extremity amputation, costs, treatment effectiveness

- Key Questions from Nominator:**
1. What is the comparative effectiveness of treating patients', including patients who may be medically underserved, chronic wounds or ischemic and/or diabetic ulcers on extremities with various treatment modalities?
 2. What is the comparative effectiveness of treating chronic wounds or ischemic and/or diabetic ulcers utilizing the vasodilation of the microcirculatory system, or the collateral microcirculatory system, produced by non-electric, non-heat producing limb wraps versus controversial common treatment modalities such as the use of

hyperbaric chambers, topical solutions, changes in lifestyle, glucose management, various methods of debridement, various types of bandages, self treatment by some medically underserved populations, and in some medically underserved populations, no treatment?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- The lifetime risk of developing a foot ulcer is high among persons diagnosed with diabetes, and many of those who develop an ulcer will be hospitalized due to infection or other ulcer-related complications. Diabetes is one of the leading causes of nontraumatic lower extremity amputations in the US. Diabetic ulcers and other chronic wounds can cause substantial adverse emotional, physical, productivity, and financial effects; however, they can be prevented and treated. Significant variation in patient outcomes exists, as well as clinical uncertainty about the best way to treat chronic wounds.
- A systematic review of the evidence for a range of treatment options for chronic wounds is needed. The Vaso-Wraps product will be one intervention among a range of treatment modalities to be considered for inclusion in this review.