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FUNCIONAL OFFLOADING TREATMENT OF COMPLICATED DIABETIC CHRONICAL WOUNDS ON THE FOOT**Danijela Semenič^a, Petra Bukovec^a, Alen Mahmutović^a, Magdalena Komel^a, Janja Nikolič^a and Dragica Maja Smrke^a**^aUniversity Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia

Aim: Diabetic chronic wounds on the foot significantly impair the quality of life and proper walking. Supplying the wound with modern wound dressing and further advanced functional offloading with vakuu concept1 could be essential for tissue regeneration and healing. Combination of mentioned treatment represents powerful option for wound healing.

Methods: We treated 5 patients with complicated non-healing chronic diabetic ulcers on the foot after surgery procedure, without systemic or local signs of inflammation. After irrigation of the wound, modern wound dressing was applied and covered with bandage. Patients initially worn conventional offloading footwear for 4 weeks, that was further on changed to the functional offloading vakuu concept1. Type of wound dressing was not changed during the whole treatment protocol.

Results: Surface area of ulcers, circumference as well as secretion rate have diminished and epithelisation of wound edges and scar formation was noted after switching from conventional offloading footwear to the functional offloading vakuu concept.

Conclusions: Chronic diabetic hard-to-heal wounds on the foot are always a challenge for wound care specialist. The new possibilities offered by functional offloading vakuu concept1 are acceptable for the insurance company in Slovenia, there fore affordable for the patients, effective, safe and painless for the patient.