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THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF THE SOFT HEEL CAST, MANAGEMENT OF HEEL PRESSURE ULCERATIONS IN THE ACUTE SETTING, AN INTERPRETATIVE PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

Joanna Louise Woollard^a and Chris Morriss-Roberts^a

^aUniversity of Brighton, UK

Background: Prevention of pressure ulceration is a key quality indicator throughout both acute and community settings, however, good quality evidence and national guidance on how to prevent heel pressure is limited. An alternative offloading device a soft heel cast has been introduced into Podiatric practise. This qualitative research study aims to seek the patient perspective of the soft heel cast.

Methods: Patients who had been provided by the soft heel cast were purposively sampled via a recruitment letter. The aim was to recruit between six and eight participants. All participants opted in and provided their written consent to take part in the study. The data were collected using the exemplary method for an Interpretative Phenomenological Approach (IPA). All interviews were transcribed and the six stages of analysis appropriate to IPA followed meticulously.

Results: The analysis identified three inter-related super ordinate themes. It revealed the intimate relationship between the most complex and powerful theme of pain alongside, 'ergonomics of the optimal offloading device' and the participant's 'ability to cope'. Five sub-themes were identified and discussed; suffering, comfort, size, identity and ulceration duration.

Conclusion: Pain is a complex and subjective phenomenon which cannot be measured directly rather established by the person experiencing it. Pain is unique and often difficult to describe, as a consequence, it remains poorly understood and inadequately managed. Quality of life should be considered an equal factor alongside the well-known triad of 'how to heal a wound'. This research clearly highlights how patients often suffer in silence.

jwoollard@nhs.net

MODIFICATION OF MICROBIAL CELLULOSE'S WETTABILITY BY APPLYING SUCCINIC ACID FOR WOUND DRESSING

Amin Meftahi^a, Abusaeed Rashidia^a, Ramin Khajavi^a, Mohammad Karim Rahimi^a and Abbas Bahador^b

^aIslamic Azad University, Iran

^bTehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran

Succinic acid as a crosslinking agent for cellulosic material has been applied in various industries. Therefore, this research attempt to modify the wettability of Microbial Cellulose(MC) by crosslinking it with succinic acid which can be supplied as a new product for wound care. In this regard, purified MC layers were put on solution which contain 10% succinic acid and 5% Sodium HypoPhosphite (SHP) for 12 hours and then dried and cured at 130°C. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy(FTIR) has been used for assessing chemical structure of new layer. Furthermore, SEM has been applied for studying the surface structure and morphology of raw and treated layers. Thickness and wettability of raw and treated layers were also evaluated. Obtained result indicated that ester structure create in cellulose and treated layer has 18% thickness and can absorb 1.3 times water more than raw layer. According to the result, this layer can be used for wound care application due to having more rehydration than raw MC.

a_meftahi@azad.ac.ir