

Development, implementation and evaluation of a pressure ulcer treatment protocol for patients suffering from spinal cord injury in a specialized Danish healthcare setting

PhD-student: K Soegaard¹

Supervisors: JA Soerensen¹, D Beeckman², S Verhaeghe², FB Soerensen³

Institution: Research Unit for Plastic Surgery, Odense University Hospital ¹

University of Southern Denmark ¹

Skin Integrity Research Group (SKINT), Ghent University, Belgium ²

Clinic for Spinal Cord Injuries, NeuroScience Centre, Rigshospitalet ³

Background and Aim: Individuals suffering from a spinal cord injury have a lifelong increased risk of developing pressure ulcers and up to 95% are experiencing a pressure ulcer during their lifetime. Pressure ulcers have tremendous impact of the individuals as well as economy and current treatment is more based on traditions than evidence. The aim of this study is to develop, implement and evaluate a pressure ulcer treatment protocol for patients suffering from spinal cord injury.

Material and Method: A systematic review on epidemiologic and etiological aspects will form the fundament for developing a targeted treatment protocol. The validated AGREE II framework will be used in development phase. The treatment protocol must be based on the highest possible level of evidence and will be developed in collaboration with clinical experts (multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral team) as well as individuals suffering from spinal cord injury. A Delphi process with participation of patients and clinical experts will be established to achieve broad consensus about the treatment protocol. The treatment protocol will be implemented at the wound clinic at Odense University Hospital.

Implementation and evaluation of the treatment protocol will supported by using the theory based model for implementation of change in healthcare by Grol and Wensing. Indicators for monitoring the implementation and for evaluation will be developed during the project: E.g. wound healing, patient satisfaction and quality of life (e.g. WoundQ).

Evaluation of the treatment protocol will be based on developed indicators and contain qualitative and quantitative data as well as patient reported outcome measures.

It is well known, that healing of a deep pressure ulcer is prolonged and can take more than a year. It is not realistic to perform an implementation and full evaluation process within the time frame of a PhD due to the need of a long term follow up period. The evaluation in this study will therefore be on results within a limited timeframe. The final results with long term follow up will be evaluated subsequently.

Results:

Discussion/Conclusion: