A Pilot Study Exploring Quality of Life Experienced by Patients Undergoing Negative Pressure Wound Therapy As Part of Their Wound Care Treatment Compared to Patients Receiving Standard Wound Care

Dr Karen Ousey\(^1\), Jeannette Milne\(^2\), Leanne Cook\(^1\), Dr John Stephenson\(^1\), Dr Warren Gillibrand\(^1\)

\(^1\)School of Human & Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, UK
\(^2\)South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Community Services, UK

OBJECTIVES

To explore satisfaction and quality of life experienced by patients undergoing negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) as part of their wound care treatment in comparison to that of patients with a wound using traditional (standard) wound care therapies.

BACKGROUND

The use of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) has been widely documented as a technique to help heal complex wounds. Investigating patient levels of satisfaction with the therapy delivered is pivotal to patient concordance. This paper presents the findings of a preliminary study which aimed to explore quality of life experienced by patients undergoing negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) as part of their wound care treatment in comparison to that of patients with a wound using traditional (standard) wound care therapies.

METHODS

A quasi-experimental study was undertaken, with patients treated in wound care/vascular clinics with chronic/acute wounds. 21 patients were analysed: 10 started treatment on NPWT and 11 on standard therapy. Quality of life (QoL) impact was measured using the Cardiff Wound Impact Schedule (CWIS) and administered post-consent at timed intervals. Controlled multivariate analyses were undertaken, utilising the individual components of the CWIS tool as outcome measures, at 1 and 2 weeks after treatment, to test the null hypothesis of no difference between the quality of life score in the patients who used NPWT and those who did not use NPWT as part of their wound care treatment. Further analyses of the effect of NPWT beyond 2 weeks was not possible due to insufficient numbers remaining on the therapy.

RESULTS

No real differences in quality of life scores were recorded by patients over the 12 week period on any scale. Figures show static series with overlapping confidence intervals.

NPWT patients reported an increase in social life scores during the first 2 weeks of the application of therapy.

**OBJECTIVES**

**RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical symptoms / daily living</th>
<th>Social life</th>
<th>Well-being</th>
<th>Overall quality of life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPWT patients</td>
<td>Standard therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>11.3(1.10)</td>
<td>23.2(7.53)</td>
<td>11.3(1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>10.7(1.34)</td>
<td>19.3(4.79)</td>
<td>10.7(1.34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES**

Ousey K, Milne J, Cook L, Stephenson J, Gillibrand, WP (2012) A pilot study exploring quality of life experienced by patients undergoing negative pressure wound therapy as part of their wound care treatment compared to patients receiving standard wound care. International Wound Journal ISSN17424801