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UNDERSTANDING THE KEY FACTORS REQUIRED FOR HYBRID MATTRESSES: ANALYSIS OF A FOCUS GROUP (THE SOMLENT SERENE HYBRID MATTRESS)

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/ Introduction.

Hybrid support surfaces are becoming increasingly accepted as an alternative treatment option to reduce and/or redistribute pressure from vulnerable areas in the prevention of pressure ulcers (PUs). Innova Care Concepts have launched their new 'active' Hybrid system, the Somlent Serene.

THE AIM OF THIS STUDY WAS TO EXPLORE PERCEPTIONS OF THE SYSTEM AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE CLINICAL SETTING.

/ Methods.

A focus group was conducted involving five key opinion leaders; an academic, infection control and tissue viability specialists. All information was recorded, transcribed verbatim and data was analysed thematically. Confidentiality and anonymity was assured.

1. Patient Suitability

The importance of choosing the correct equipment in a timely fashion was raised. All participants discussed that there was some confusion amongst clinicians when making decisions regarding when a hybrid should be chosen over other systems.

2. Ease Of Use And Effectiveness

There was a consensus that this hybrid possessed a range of features, for example the cut-out section in the outer foam. Further evidence is required to investigate the systems' additional features in providing increased benefit for pressure relief.

/ Results (Four key themes were identified)



SOMLENT™ *Serene*

Watch the Somlent Serene Hybrid mattress video at
WWW.INNOVACARECONCEPTS.COM

3. Importance of Inter Professional Working

Participants raised the necessity of working with different disciplines to improve and develop hybrids and other systems. It was recommended that infection control and tissue viability should both be involved in assessing the appropriateness of new systems for use in clinical areas.

4. Loss of Equipment – Promotion of Cost Effectiveness

Systems are often lost in practice. Participants highlighted that not all Trusts use medical physics to manage the equipment. It was suggested that the equipment manufacturer should incorporate a unique bar-coding system linking to patient records which could assist in the tracking of its' use.

/ Discussion.

Health and social care should work collaboratively with industry to develop an effective product for clinical practice. The concern raised that some clinicians do not fully understand when a hybrid system should be used highlights the necessity of conducting further research. This will enable the development of a flowchart guideline, based on high quality evidence, for health care givers to access and refer to thus ensuring correct choice of appropriate equipment. System choices for use in clinical practice should be based on research evidence assessing benefit, harm and cost effectiveness.

/ Conclusion.

The consensus was that there is a place for hybrid mattresses in preventing and managing pressure damage effectively. Further research, investigating the use of this Somlent Serene Hybrid system is currently being conducted, and will be reported at a later date.