Risk assessment tools for delayed healing and recurrence of venous leg ulcers

Formal Title
Development and validation of risk assessment tools to guide management and prevention of venous leg ulcers

Method
Prospective longitudinal study

Investigators
RDNS: Dr Rajna Ogrin
Queensland University of Technology: Prof. Helen Edwards, Dr. Kathy Finlayson, Ms Michelle Gibb
Blue Care: Ms Kerrie Storey, Mr Paul Burrows
Royal Brisbane Hospital, QLD Health: Dr. Dianne Smith, Ms Kerrie Coleman

Funder/Funding
Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre (WMICRC)
(established and supported under the Australian Government’s Cooperative Research Centres Program)

Duration
2011-2014

Status
Data collection has been completed. Publications pending.

Rationale:
There were no screening tools available to assist clinicians to rapidly detect leg ulcers at risk of delayed healing or recurrence in order to guide timely and appropriate wound management and prevention decisions.

Aim:
Develop and validate risk assessment tools for non-healing venous leg ulcers and recurrence of venous leg ulcers.

Key Achievements:
- Two world-first, validated, powerful predictive risk assessment tools for management of venous leg ulcers.
- Conversion of the validated tools into Apps for hand-held and desk-top devices.

Contribution to Knowledge:
- Provide health professionals with information they need to change management at an early stage and/or specialist referral, saving time and resources.
- Determine realistic prognoses from treatment for people with these wounds, and guide decisions on addressing the specific risk factors identified by the tools, and so promote early healing.
- National and international interest in testing and evaluating outcomes from use of the tools in practice
- Potential for improved healing and recurrence rates for patients with venous leg ulcers, leading to cost savings for consumers and the health care system

Conference papers:


One PhD Thesis completed from QUT enrolled candidate Christina Parker called Predicting the likelihood of non-healing: a venous leg ulcer risk assessment tool.

Publications are in preparation.