Poster 0010: Using a Neuromuscular Electrostimulation Device for Non-healing Lower Leg Wounds in Long Term Care Residents

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Goals:
Chronically non-healing wounds are a burden in the Long Term Care (LTC) sector, increasing costs, morbidity and mortality, and causing pain and suffering¹. The aim of this Revera LTC Innovation Pilot was to test the value of a novel neuromuscular electrostimulation muscle pump activator (MPA)² stimulating the common peroneal nerve, causing passive motion of the flexor muscles, acting as a calf muscle pump. Hoped-for outcomes included elevating the experience and satisfaction of the residents; engaging and empowering the nursing staff; and improving healing³ and/or reducing costs.

Methodology:
Small, wireless and worn at the knee, this MPA increases lower leg blood circulation (up to 60% of that achieved by walking⁴). It has no wires and is easy to use. Residents in four LTC homes with non-healing lower leg wounds were selected.

Ethics:
Ethics review was obtained from The Regional Centre for Excellence in Ethics, Homewood Health Centre, Guelph, Ontario.

Results:
Eleven residents with 14 non-healing wounds, including venous/mixed, diabetic foot ulcers, pressure, traumatic or surgical. The nurses were excited about the possibility of improving healing or reducing pain in any lower leg ulcers.

Key Messages:
Nursing staff and cognizant residents could easily adjust the setting of the muscle pump activator, and application and removal were simple. Most residents felt engaged with the therapy, “because they feel it working”. Revera feels that it’s a great adjunctive solution for many types of lower leg wounds (venous, mixed, diabetic, pressure) in addition to best practices in the LTC and Retirement home sectors.

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Best New Long-Term Care Product or Service of the Year

References:
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