

Canada at War: A New Reality for Canadian Clinicians



Sue Rosenthal

Every day in the newspaper and on TV we read and see frightening reports of war, terrorism and increases in crime. Is it all just sensationalistic reporting, or does it really impact on our lives? In this issue of *Wound Care Canada*, we get a glimpse of one aspect of Canadian life that reflects a harsh, new reality: Canada at war.

For many of us, war is something that other countries engage in, not Canada. We have always had a reputation as a peacekeeping country. But today, Canadian troops are on the frontlines of a war, and the ramifications of their

presence overseas are being felt here at home as military personnel continue to be injured and killed in Afghanistan. In this issue, the interview with Master Corporal Paul Franklin, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, by Associate Editor Catherine Harley tells a compelling story of one person's experience in a war zone far from home, while also providing readers with insight into what the implications of Canada's engagement in Afghanistan might be for wound-care clinicians, as injured soldiers find their way into the Canadian health-care system.

This new reality will involve the treatment of traumatic wounds not normally seen in the average clinical setting, as well as the need for long-term care for chronic and recurring wounds, years down the road. As well, the psychological component of treating patients who have been injured in armed conflict will be a challenge for most clinicians, as addressing patient-centred concerns takes on a whole new meaning in the new Canadian reality. ☺

Sue Rosenthal,
Editor

Le Canada est en guerre : Une réalité nouvelle pour les cliniciens canadiens

Chaque jour, les journaux et la télévision nous font voir les horreurs de la guerre, du terrorisme et de la hausse de la criminalité. Est-ce uniquement du sensationnalisme, ou cela affecte-t-il réellement nos vies? Dans ce numéro de *Wound Care Canada*, nous entrevoyons un aspect de la vie canadienne qui se veut le reflet d'une nouvelle réalité brutale : le Canada est en guerre.

Pour bien d'entre nous, la guerre est une chose qui frappe les autres pays, mais pas le Canada. Nous avons toujours eu la réputation d'être un pays pacifique. Mais aujourd'hui, les troupes canadiennes sont sur la ligne de front d'une guerre, et les ramifications de leur

présence outre-mer se fait sentir ici au pays, alors que le personnel militaire continue de subir des blessures et de se faire tuer en Afghanistan. Dans ce numéro, l'entrevue du Caporal-chef Paul Franklin, du bataillon canadien d'infanterie légère du Princess Patricia, par la co-rédactrice en chef Catherine Harley, raconte l'histoire saisissante d'une personne en zone de guerre et loin de sa maison, tout en donnant aux lecteurs une idée de ce que les implications de l'engagement du Canada en Afghanistan pourraient être pour les cliniciens en soins des plaies, alors que les soldats blessés essaient de s'y retrouver dans le sys-

tème de santé canadien.

Cette réalité nouvelle impliquera le traitement de plaies traumatiques qu'on ne voit pas normalement dans un contexte clinique habituel, de même que le besoin de soins de longue durée pour les plaies chroniques et récurrentes, dans les années à venir. De plus, la composante psychologique de traiter les patients qui ont été blessés dans des conflits armés sera un défi pour la plupart des cliniciens, alors que d'aborder les besoins particuliers du patients prennent un tout autre sens dans cette nouvelle réalité canadienne. ☺

La rédactrice, Sue Rosenthal

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[†]In vitro testing, using simulated wound fluid model.

Reference: 1. Bowler PG, Jones SA, Walker M, Parsons D. The spectrum of activity of an antimicrobial Hydrofiber[®] dressing against potential wound pathogens. Poster presented at: the 16th Annual Symposium on Advanced Wound Care; April 2003; Las Vegas, Nev.



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The Canadian Association of Wound Care is a non-profit organization of health-care professionals, industry participants, patients and caregivers dedicated to the advancement of wound care in Canada.

The CAWC was formed in 1995, and its official meeting is the CAWC annual conference held in Canada each year. The association's efforts are focused on five key areas: public policy, clinical practice, education, research and connecting with the international wound-care community. The CAWC works to significantly improve patient care, clinical outcomes and the professional satisfaction of wound-care clinicians.

L'Association canadienne du soin des plaies est un organisme sans but lucratif regroupant des professionnels de la santé, des gens de l'industrie, des patients et des membres du personnel soignant fortement intéressés à l'avancement des connaissances pour le soin des plaies au Canada.

Fondée en 1995, l'ACSP organise, chaque année, au Canada, un congrès qui lui tient lieu de réunion officielle, le Congrès annuel de l'ACSP. L'association consacre ses efforts dans cinq domaines particuliers : les politiques gouvernementales, la pratique clinique, la formation, la recherche et la création de liens avec la communauté internationale directement impliquée dans le soin des plaies. L'Association canadienne du soin des plaies vise une amélioration significative du soin donné au patient, des résultats cliniques et de la satisfaction professionnelle des spécialistes en soin des plaies.

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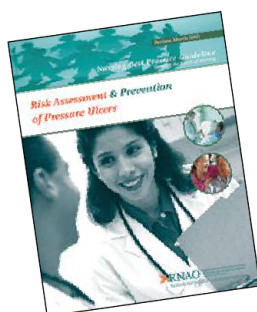
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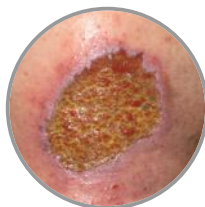


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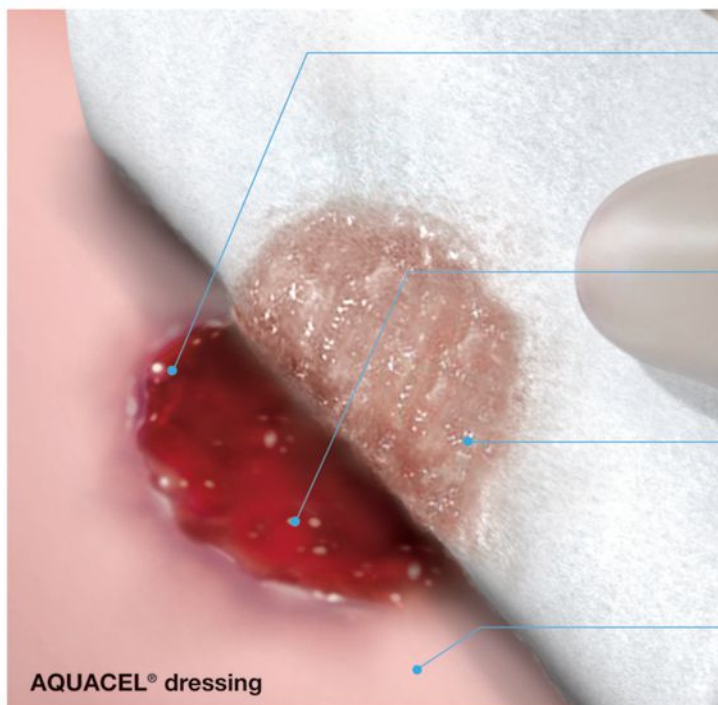
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