

Recognizing Infection



Sue Rosenthal

In keeping with our mandate to provide readers with articles that are relevant to the most important areas of concern within their scope of practice, this issue of *Wound Care Canada* is centred around the theme of infection prevention and control—specifically recognizing infection.

This recognition comes in several forms: (1) Recognizing the risk for infection that different patients face and mitigating the factors that place them at risk. Dietitian Chris Fraser's article on hyperglycemia in individuals with wounds provides detailed background information on why individuals with elevated

blood glucose levels have increased risk for developing infection. (2) Recognizing infection when you see it. The enabler developed by Kyle Goettl and Stephan Landis is a handy reminder that infection in patients with diabetes is sometimes difficult to recognize because it may present with diabetes-specific symptoms. (3) Recognizing trends in the development of infection so practice change can be implemented at all stages of patient care. The article by Edie Attrell and Pamela Armstrong demonstrates how a research study revealed gaps that, when filled, identify infection rates in home care.

Other infection-related articles in this issue range from the interview with Stacey Linger, an infection prevention and control officer, through to an article from our Canadian Forces' colleagues outlining the implications for Canadian hospitals that treat wounded soldiers returning from Afghanistan with *Acinetobacter* infections. The Future Watch feature is also infection-related. Rounding out the issue are articles on other topics of interest that I'm sure you'll find useful and applicable to your day-to-day practice. ☺

Sue Rosenthal,
Editor

Savoir reconnaître l'infection

Dans le but de respecter notre mandat face à nos lecteurs, la présentation d'articles pertinents sur des sujets qui les concernent dans leur champ de pratique, ce numéro de *Wound Care Canada* se penche sur le thème de la prévention et du contrôle de l'infection – spécifiquement reconnaître l'infection.

Il y a plusieurs manières de reconnaître l'infection : (1) Savoir identifier les populations de patients à risque de développer une infection et contrôler les facteurs qui les menacent. La diététiste Chris Fraser présente un article détaillé sur l'hyperglycémie expliquant la relation entre l'hyperglycémie, les plaies et le risque

accru de développer une infection pour ces patients. (2) Savoir reconnaître la présence de l'infection. Kyle Goettl et Stephan Landis ont développé un outil qui nous rappelle la difficulté d'identifier l'infection des plaies chez les diabétiques parce que l'infection peut se présenter avec des symptômes spécifiques au diabète. (3) Savoir changer la pratique à tous les stades des soins aux patients en considérant que le développement de l'infection peut provenir de source insolite. Edie Attrell et Pamela Armstrong démontrent qu'une étude de recherche a révélé des lacunes qui, lorsque comblées, identifiaient les taux d'infection dans les soins à domicile.

Dans ce numéro d'autres articles sur l'infection vont d'une entrevue avec Stacey Linger, un officier de prévention et de contrôle de l'infection, à un article de nos collègues des Forces armées canadiennes exposant les implications des hôpitaux canadiens avec les soldats revenant de l'Afghanistan blessés et infectés par *Acinetobacter*. La section Future Watch porte aussi sur l'infection. Pour compléter le numéro, il y a des articles sur d'autres sujets d'intérêt qui, j'en suis certaine, vous seront utiles et applicables dans votre pratique de tous les jours. ☺

La rédactrice,
Sue Rosenthal

Sue Rosenthal,
BA, MA,
specializes in health
and wellness
communications and
has been associated
with the CAWC
since 2000.

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