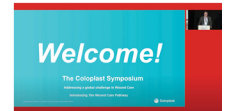


Coloplast Sponsored Session:

Addressing a Global Challenge in Wound Care: Introducing the Wound Care Pathway

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Wounds are a big burden on patient lives. Many patients with a wound can't live an active and social life. 15% of wounds remain unhealed after one year, and 17.8% of patients have had their wound for 1–5 years.

Wounds are also a major burden on health-care systems. Many generalist health-care providers lack education specific to wound prevention and management, which can result in a lack of confidence in their ability to effectively manage patients with or at risk for wounds. Wound care specialists pass along their knowledge and experience, but time doesn't always permit for staff education, and high staff turn-over means there is a constant need for it.

The Coloplast Consensus Project

A 2019 Coloplast study conducted in Europe sought to understand the day-to-day life of clinicians managing patients with wounds. According to results, there are three main challenges faced by clinicians:

1. Clinicians often receive limited training in wound care management, leading to insecurity
2. Established guidelines are lacking or not used, leading to variation in treatment decisions
3. Treatment decisions are often based on trial and error and are not always evidence-based

Coloplast concluded that there must be a focus on providing access to education and guidance by developing simplified, evidence-based guidelines aimed at non-specialists.

In 2019, Coloplast started the Consensus Project, in which 85 wound care specialists from 19 countries came together with a panel of

wound care experts (the Global Expert group) to discuss best practice in wound care (see Figure 1).

During the 2019 Wound Care Days, eight important topics were discussed:

1. Wound assessment
2. Wound bed preparation
3. Managing the gap (dead space between the wound and the dressing)
4. Effective exudate management
5. Recognizing the early signs of infection
6. Managing biofilms
7. Holistic wound management
8. Patient education

Consensus was achieved when more than 80% of participants agreed with a given recommendation, and no participants disagreed with the recommendation.

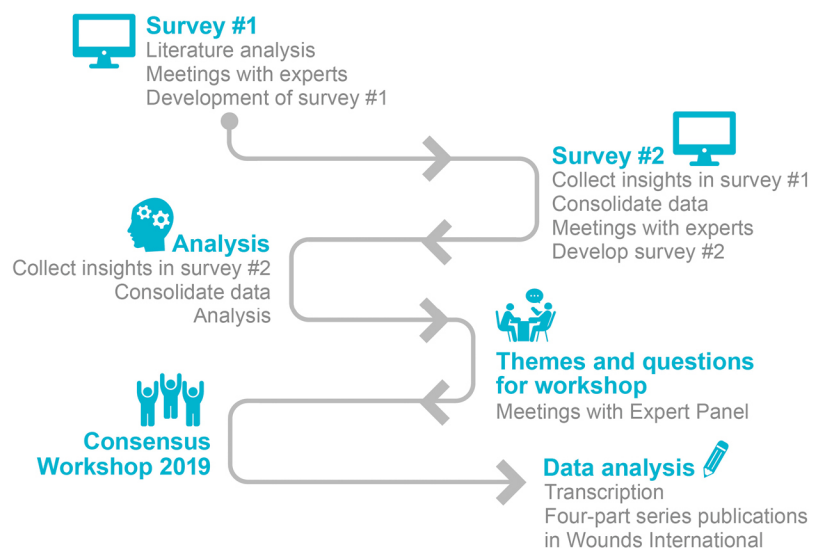
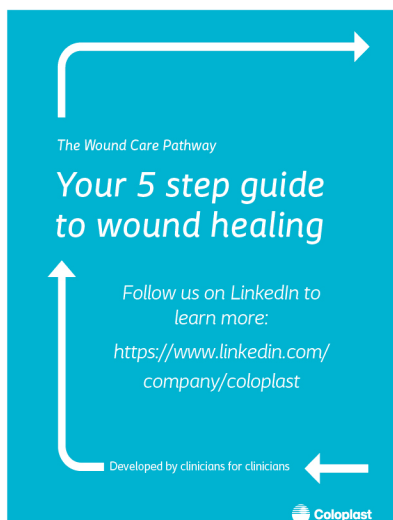


Figure 1. A Step By Step Approach

Figure 2.
The Wound
Care
Pathway



- **What is a chronic wound?**
- Step 1 How to assess a person with a chronic wound
- Step 2 How to develop a treatment plan
- Step 3 How to manage the chronic wound
- Step 4 How to choose a dressing
- Step 5 How to monitor patient and wound progression
- **When to refer or consult a specialist**

Consensus was reached on several topics, including:

- Wound care treatment should be primarily focused on providing an optimal healing environment
- One of the most important factors in promoting and optimal healing environment is managing the gap between the wound bed and the dressing
- Gap management is about exudate management and must promote moisture balance in the wound

The new evidence was published in *Wounds International* in four installments in late 2020¹⁻⁴:

1. Managing the gap to promote healing in chronic wounds – an international consensus
2. Closing the gap between the evidence and clinical practice – a consensus report on exudate management
3. Preventing & treating infection in wounds: translating evidence & recommendations into practice
4. Advancing practice in holistic wound management: a consensus-based call to action

The Wound Care Pathway

In collaboration with the wound care community, Coloplast developed a wound care pathway that can guide clinicians through the care process. Responses to a survey sent out to consensus workshop participants indicated that the pathway needed to be developed by clinicians, for clinicians. Coloplast sent a global survey out to both specialists and non-specialists to gather information on what should be included in the pathway, from which they received 2194 responses. Next, the draft was developed and eight local focus group meetings were held to gather feedback on The Wound Care Pathway (see Figure 2). Then, in early 2021, the Global Expert group reviewed and

approved the pathway, and it was ratified in seven countries.

The Wound Care Pathway supports the implementation of Wounds Canada's Best Practice Recommendations⁵

References

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