



SILVER CHAIN

EVERY MINUTE. EVERY HOUR. EVERY DAY. WE CARE.

Treating Bacterial Burden in Chronic Lower Leg Ulcers

Presenter: Charne Miller¹

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This seminar marks the Western Australian launch of the report of a major multi-site Randomised Controlled Trial. In 2005, Royal District Nursing Service in Victoria and Silver Chain in Western Australia received funding from the Angior Family Foundation to undertake a number of studies examining best practice in lower leg ulcer management. The most significant component of this work was a Randomised Controlled Trial which compared two antimicrobials - Nanocrystalline Silver and Cadexomer Iodine - in the treatment of critically colonised or infected lower leg ulcers.

The trial involved 281 clients who were monitored for 12 weeks to calculate a healing rate for both antimicrobial treatments. It was generally observed that there were few differences in the clinical or cost effectiveness of the two treatments.

In launching the report, the study's conclusions will be overviewed, the impact on the participating organisations will be described, and the implications for organisations and individuals involved in service delivery, research, policy and funding will be discussed.

Main Report Reference

Miller, C., Newall, N., Kapp, S., Lewin, G., Karimi, L., Carville, K., Gliddon, T., & Santamaria, N. (2009). *Treating bacterial burden in chronic lower leg ulcers: A Randomised Controlled Trial Comparing Two Antimicrobial Dressings - Cadexomer Iodine and Nanocrystalline Silver*. Melbourne: RDNS Helen Macpherson Smith Institute of Community Health.

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