

THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON PREVENTION OF LEG ULCERS – THE PATIENT’S PERSPECTIVE

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Venous leg ulcers are common, costly and adversely affect quality of life. In order to appropriately manage patients with venous leg ulceration, evidence based treatment must focus on optimal wound healing. However once the ulcer is healed it is important that effective strategies are provided to prevent recurrence (Finlayson et al, 2009).

There is a global change in health care delivery and patients need to be able to engage in self-management strategies aimed at optimal treatment management and encouraging concordance with prevention strategies (WHO, 2003). Patient education can be delivered via various mediums and this presentation will explore the patient’s perspective of various approaches to patient education. Data collected as part of “A cluster randomised controlled trial of the Leg Ulcer Prevention Programme in venous leg ulcer patients in an Irish Community setting “ (Shanley, Moore 2012) will be presented with reference to the literature available in relation to patient’s perspective on a structured education programme.

For any education programme to be effective it has to focus on the central tenets of evidence based leg ulcer practice, however the desired outcomes will only be achieved if the patient’s individual needs are recognized and addressed. Thus this presentation will include recommendations for practice with emphasis on the patient’s perspective of education.