

# **HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT – WOUND, PATIENT AND HOME ENVIRONMENT**

**Salla Seppänen**

*Health Department Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences (Mikkeli, Finland)*

Holistic care approaches are advocated in wound management strongly from the beginning of 2000 millennium. As the philosophical orientation to the care it underpins the fundamental wholeness of human being and emphasises the importance of balance within the person and the environment. It includes the elements of physiological, sociological, economic, psychological and spiritual dimensions of human life.

The holistic approach of care can be in a way defined as the contrast to the modern medical approach, which focuses on health and illness in the patient's individual aspects, but in isolation from the patient's living context. The environment contains the society itself with the economical and cultural dimensions as well as the organisational factors related to care provider, like professionals, their knowledge and skills as well as available material resource, like technology, dressings and wound care products are part of the holistic care approach.

When the wound care is implemented in home the holistic approach in the assessment of care is good framework, because the patient's life situation is appraised as wholeness. The interest is not only the wound but also the patient's psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions and the family and environmental factors are then taken into to the consideration in the assessment.

The holistic approach in the assessment of patients with wounds optimize healing while it takes into the consideration all factors that influence to the care and maximises the available resources. It prevents fragmented or inappropriate care for individual patients and contributes to focus on cost effectiveness and high quality in care.