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## Sustainability and innovation: A multidisciplinary approach to improve health outcomes while reducing costs

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**Introduction:** Since 2012, our University Hospital has defined new policies for wound healing management for both hospital and outpatient setting. It has been created a multidisciplinary team of wound care experts with the role to define new treatments and protocols in order to standardize the wounds care approach.

**Materials and Methods:** The whole wounds were assessed in terms of total number, anatomical region involved and dressing change per year; we have proceeded in dividing them by each aetiology in sub-groups and then we have created 12 protocols treatments. A modified DELPHI panel was applied to validate these profiles and define a consensus document. Using this method, based on current evidence, the treatment profiles, the better technologies to use and the implementation protocols have been selected. Each new treatment (according to Wound Bed Preparation approach) was compared with the available treatment currently used: A cost/opportunity analysis of the dressings was then carried out for exclusive acquiring purposes.

**Results:** Applying the treatments profile for each wound saved 150.000 euro per year out of a total expense of 430.000 euro. The amount saved (about 30% of annual cost) has been used to get innovative technological dressings (iso-resources). The accuracy of the new treatments has allowed an increase of treated cases (around 33% more); furthermore, due to the less frequent dressings change, the new treatments reduce social costs (around 30% less).

**Conclusion:** Introducing innovative dressings in the management of wound care and wound healing system achieves an improvement both technological and conceptual in the treatment of complex wounds. It represents the main element of improvement for enhancing services and outcomes. The assistance path and the possibility of using more resources allow to better define the best treatment and to raise the standards of care, reducing at the same time the margin of discretion and promoting costs saving.

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