

6th International Conference on
Wound Care, Nursing and Tissue Science

May 20, 2022 | Webinar

Received date: March 26, 2022 | Accepted date: March 28, 2022 | Published date: May 30, 2022

Advanced wound therapies: When and which patient?

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Background: Wounds affect patient quality of life and impose a substantial financial burden on the health care system.

Purpose: To systematically evaluate benefits of advanced wound care therapy for acute and chronic wounds such as pressure injuries, diabetic ulcers, traumatic wounds. If ulcers do not adequately heal with standard treatment, additional modalities may be required. We define advanced wound care therapy as an intervention used when standard wound care takes long time to heal. A large and growing array of advanced wound care therapies of different composition and indications have been developed though their efficacy, comparative effectiveness. The ulcers (those that are unresponsive to initial therapy or persist despite appropriate care) affect patient quality of

life and productivity and represent a substantial financial burden on the health care system. Identifying ulcer cause is an important factor in determining appropriate wound care interventions.

Therapies included in this review are: antimicrobial products, debridement of necrotic tissue, revascularization, and negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT). Patients undergoing wound treatment have different focuses, concerns, and needs related to treatment modality. It is important for health care personnel to carry this in mind to be able to individualize patient care.

Conclusion: Compared with standard care, advanced wound care therapies may improve the proportion of ulcers healed and reduce time to healing.

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