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ADVANCING HEALING HORIZONS:
TOWARDS THE CUTTING EDGE IN WOUND CARE

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INTRODUCTION: THE ULCERS OF THE LOWER LIMBS

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Lower Limb Ulcers

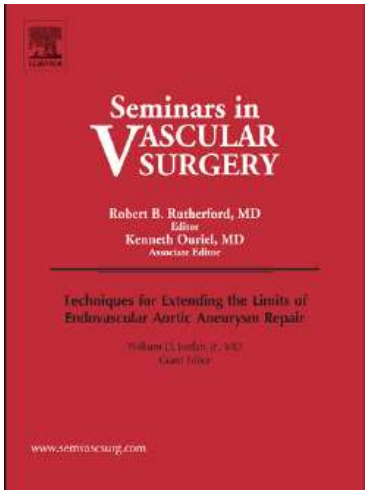
- Lower limb ulcers (LLUs) are the most frequent form of chronic ulceration, globally.
- LLUs account for the majority of expenditures in local care and their incidence is increasing all over the world.
- Aging and co-morbidities of patients increase the rates of recurrences and their chronicity.

ETIOLOGY OF LOWER LIMB ULCERATION

- Venous 55 %
- Mixed venous/arterial 15 %
- Arterial 5 %
- Diabetes-related 20 %
- Trauma 4 %
- Reumathologic 1 %
- Malignancy 1 %

Lower Limb Ulcers

- LLUs are associated to an excess of morbidity and mortality and could be considered a marker of frailty of the patients.
- They are associated also to an important decrease in the quality of life of the patients and affect significantly their wellbeing.
- LLUs are one of the most important generator of costs among the chronic pathologies.



COSTS OF MANAGEMENT OF VENOUS LEG ULCERS

- USA – 1 billion USD/year
- UK – 400 – 600 million pound/year

[Simka M. 2003]

Diabetologia (2008) 51:1826–1834
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ARTICLE

Resource utilisation and costs associated with the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. Prospective data from the Eurodiale Study

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Table 3 Resource utilisation in relation to ulcer severity score

Resource use	Group A No infection or PAD (n=204)	Group B With infection, no PAD (n=208)	Group C No infection, with PAD (n=153)	Group D With both infection and PAD (n=185)	Not classified[a] (n=71)	All patients included in costing analysis (n=821)
Direct costs						
Hospitalisation (hotel cost)	808 (18)	3,703 (40)	4,433 (45)	6,787 (40)	4,599 (40)	3,892 (39)
Amputations	198 (4)	499 (5)	594 (6)	2,411 (14)	687 (6)	889 (9)
Revascularisation	44 (1)	62 (1)	685 (7)	1309 (8)	1,213 (11)	554 (5)
Other interventions and surgery	550 (12)	992 (11)	897 (9)	1,553 (9)	937 (8)	986 (10)
Diagnostic procedures and investigations	74 (2)	111 (1)	190 (2)	260 (2)	225 (2)	160 (2)
Antibiotics	847 (19)	1,146 (12)	1,147 (12)	1,846 (11)	764 (7)	1,197 (12)
Off-loading/ orthopaedic appliances	435 (10)	448 (5)	447 (5)	503 (3)	445 (4)	457 (5)
Topical treatment	368 (8)	446 (5)	679 (7)	1,057 (6)	1,029 (9)	658 (7)
Consultations/ outpatient visits	448 (10)	707 (8)	549 (6)	687 (4)	1,221 (11)	653 (6)
Total direct costs	3,771	8,113	9,622	16,414	11,120	9,446
Indirect costs	743 (16)	1,160 (13)	229 (2)	421 (3)	335 (3)	645 (6)
Total direct and indirect cost	4,514 (100)	9,273 (100)	9,851 (100)	16,835 (100)	11,455 (100)	10,091 (100)

Table 4 Direct and indirect costs per patient in relation to outcome

Resource use	Healed (n=647)	Deceased, unhealed (n=34)	Major amputation (n=36)	Not healed within 12 months (n=104)
Direct costs				
Hospitalisation (hotel cost)	2,647 (34)	4,771 (55)	10,953 (43)	8,907 (44)
Amputations	602 (8)	498 (6)	6,907 (27)	718 (4)
Revascularisation	538 (7)	238 (3)	624 (2)	734 (4)
Other interventions and surgery	712 (9)	949 (11)	2,894 (11)	2,042 (10)
Diagnostic procedures and investigations	126 (2)	104 (1)	289 (1)	345 (2)
Antibiotics	1,060 (14)	959 (11)	1,208 (5)	2,120 (11)
Off-loading/orthopaedic appliances	449 (6)	165 (2)	360 (1)	636 (3)
Topical treatment	473 (6)	470 (5)	922 (4)	1,780 (9)
Consultations/outpatient visits	540 (7)	473 (5)	383 (2)	1,508 (8)
Total direct costs	7,147	8,628	24,540	18,790
Indirect costs	574 (7)	25 (0)	681 (3)	1,275 (6)
Total direct and indirect cost	7,722 (100)	8,653 (100)	25,222 (100)	20,064 (100)