

Multi-patient evaluation of an adjustable wrap compression device for venous and lymphatic disease

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Introduction

Chronic lower limb problems including venous leg ulceration and chronic oedema are increasingly prevalent in the population. A recent study identified that there are over 730,000 adults with leg ulcers in any 12-month period in the U.K. (Guest et al. 2015). This calls for treatment regimes that enable the patient to self-care in line with the 5-Year Forward View (NHS England 2014).

Adjustable wrap compression devices are a relatively new addition to the options available to treat patients with venous and lymphatic disease. They maximise the patient's ability to self-care and enable the involvement of wider skill-mix in the management of chronic lower limb conditions.

The benefits of adjustable wrap compression devices* were explored in order to justify their position in local clinical guidance for compression selection, in order to ensure that recommendations were cost effective, clinically effective and safe.

Method

A 10 patient evaluation of an adjustable compression device was undertaken. Those included within the evaluation include individuals with one or a combination of chronic oedema, lymphoedema or venous leg ulceration. All individuals included within the evaluation are deemed appropriate candidates for compression therapy following a full holistic assessment, incorporating a Doppler assessment.

Results

All patients involved within the evaluations achieved a positive outcome with the adjustable wrap compression devices.

Clinical outcomes include:

- Reduction in limb volume within a short period of time
- Wound healing
- Reduction in maceration associated with lymphorrhoea
- Improved skin condition

Patient orientated benefits:

- A greater acceptance of compression versus other compression systems leading to improved concordance
- The ability to self-care
- Improved body image
- Improved comfort

Service delivery orientated benefits:

- The ability to share care with community nurse colleagues and residential home staff
- Reduction in appointments and appointment time.
- Images and measurements will be supplied to support illustration of outcome measures.

Discussion and conclusion

A wide range of patient-centred, clinical and service delivery related benefits associated with the use of adjustable wrap compression devices were identified. This supports the inclusion of the devices within the local leg ulcer pathway and clinical guidance (compression selection chart will be included if accepted).

Adjustable wrap compression devices can be used for patients with venous and lymphatic disorders to yield positive outcomes as a component of cost-effective clinically effective care.

* ReadyWrap™, Activa L&R.



Before the use of the adjustable wrap compression device



After the use of the adjustable wrap compression device

Patient feedback

"I wasn't sure about it at first, but now I cannot live without it and wished I had received the treatment sooner"

"The pain has gone, it is amazing!"

"At last I can stop wearing bandages and start getting on with my life"

"My leg feels so much better"