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Clinical evaluation of the effectiveness of a multimodal static pressure relieving device

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Introduction

The aim of the study was to provide proof of the effectiveness of a support aid for the prevention or treatment of pressure sores. The system under review was REPOSE, a range of air-filled polyurethane products comprising a mattress overlay, a cushion, foot protectors and a wedge.

Methods

The study was conducted according to a randomised, comparative and explorative design. The ethical approval was given by the ethical committee by the University of Witten-Herdecke.

All patients were supported either by the REPOSE system or by small or large-celled alternate pressure systems.

All available patients in one hospital and residents of eight nursing homes who met the inclusion criteria (pressure sore minimum grade 2, geriatric patients, or those with neurological illness or patients undergoing operations) were randomly allocated to the included products for a total period of nine months. Measurement, realised by a standardised protocol which considered preventative and therapeutic aspects of the measured systems, occurred over a maximum of 28 days per subject. The main parameters were: general wound healing, weekly changes in wounds, wound healing success according to support system.

Results

50 patients were included in the study. The study showed a clear superiority ($p = 0.009$) of REPOSE compared to the small-cell support systems regarding the wound healing tendency as well as the healing period. REPOSE were in those parameters comparable to the large-cell systems ($p = 0.212$) in this study group. Patients were significantly more satisfied with the REPOSE system than patients who were cared for using the comparative systems ($p < 0.001$ small-cell system and 0.024 large-cell system).

Conclusion

REPOSE provides a highly effective system that can be used in multimodal fashion for both preventative and therapeutic purposes within the study group. Evidence was presented that patients with wounds in the classically exposed body points at risk of pressure sores who were supported on the REPOSE system showed an improved tendency to heal.

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