

# A study to review the practice of wound cleansing, debridement and removal of foreign bodies from acute wounds in an accident and emergency department

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**Capacity**  
is a daily problem

- 532 operations cancelled on day of surgery (Jan-April) in one hospital due to pressures from emergency admission. (Lintern, 2012)



**Demand**  
is high

- >100,000 patients per year visit A/E department at UHNS. All unnecessary admissions must be avoided. Many patients can be cared for in the community

8 patients were offered the choice of wound cleansing using the following methods:

- A.** Saline irrigation
- B.** Gauze swabs
- C.** Surgical scrub brush
- D.** Monofilament pad\*

All 8 patients chose the monofilament pad.  
What would you choose?

**Wound assessment**  
Rapid and accurate

- Staff said they needed to perform rapid and accurate wound assessment to inform care decisions
- Patients are anxious and need to feel reassured that all unnecessary pain will be avoided in that process



**Training**  
Simple solutions

- 150 nurses
- 50 health care support staff
- Staff said that they wanted simple training solutions

## Decision to admit? The clock is ticking....

Patient admissions to A/E can have a direct impact on hospital capacity and surgical beds. Rapid and accurate wound assessment informs correct clinical decisions.

Reference: Lintern, S. (2012) Swamped trust cancels 532 ops on day of surgery since January. Health Service Journal, 19 April 2012.

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