

The role of an active debridement system in assisting the experienced clinician to undertake an assessment and determine appropriate wound management objectives.

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Case study 1

Female diabetic patient

Bilateral skin haematoma

Treatment prevented admission to hospital

Pain score during treatment – 0

Treatment time 6-10 minutes



Introduction

Appropriate and effective wound assessment and documentation is essential for the provision of clinical and cost effective wound care delivery. Caring for people with wounds is costly in terms of finances and clinical outcomes, with 3% of the annual National Health service expenditure spent on woundcare being estimated as high as £3.1 billion per year (Drew et al 2007).

Harding 2000 identifies variations in woundcare practice with inequalities in the care provided to patients. Ousey and Shorney 2009 state that appropriate selection of treatment based on the underlying cause and condition of the wound and documentation are the key indicators of quality of care.

Aim

To examine if an active debridement system* assisted an experienced group of Tissue Viability link nurses to undertake an assessment and determine appropriate wound management objectives.

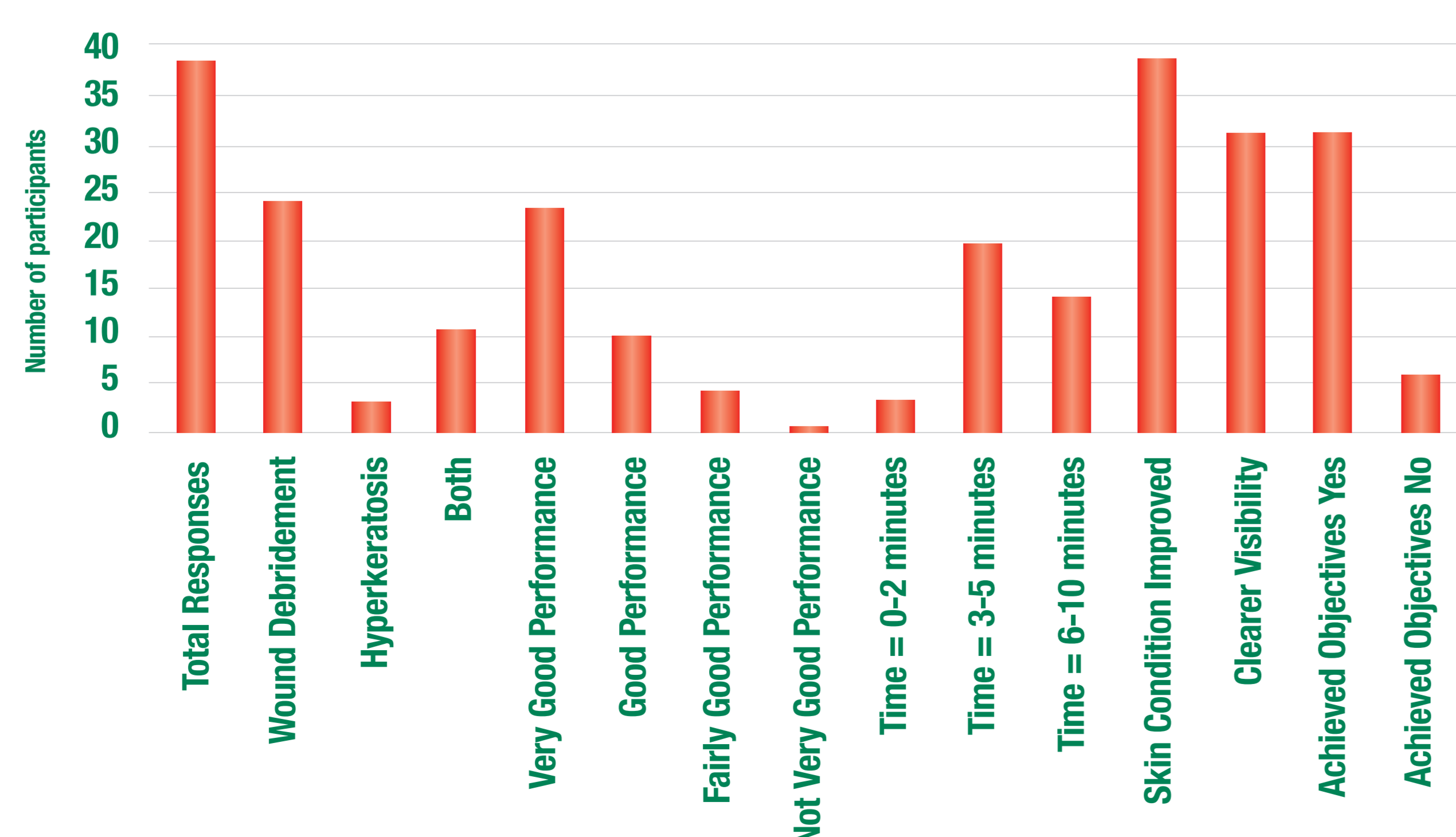
Method

This project was undertaken over a 3 week period following the existing process for evaluation of new dressings with an agreed audit tool. All nurses had undertaken an accredited tissue viability course and received supplementary debridement training within 6 months. In all, 38 out of 40 evaluation forms were completed, which is a 95% return rate.

Conclusion

Whilst the focus should be on an appropriate debridement method to achieve timely, optimal, pain-free removal of non-viable tissue, there is the additional benefit of prompt and more appropriate wound assessment, and clearer objectives. Whilst in wound healing there are different perspectives, debridement can assist in achieving the overall goal.

Worcester Responses



Comments from the County wide Tissue Viability Team

“Instant visible results - less visits needed to address condition”

“Exposed a wound bed that normally takes weeks or a hospital admission”

“Removing slough meant the next stages of wound healing were effectively reached”

“facilitated a clearer view of which areas of the wound were healed and those which were unhealed”

The debridement system when used to remove a haematoma - “Gently peeled away skin layer over the haematoma exposing it, then lifted out. This would have taken weeks with gels”

“it makes the wound bed more visible - moved an impermeable layer of slough”

“general skin condition improved and the emollient was more effective”

“Skin condition improved greatly”

“Patient was able to clean the wound himself”

Case study 2

Female patient

Heel pressure ulcer

Pain score during treatment - 0

Treatment time 3-5 minutes



References

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