

SURGICAL PRODUCTS

The No. 1 requested brand for surgeons, OR managers, and purchasers for more than 30 years.

Is It Time To Give Your Old VLU Treatment The Boot?

An Updated Approach To Treating Venous Leg Ulcers May Be Just What The Patient Needs

By Daniel Seeger, Editor

Patients battling non-healing venous leg ulcers (VLUs), which is the most frequently occurring chronic wound, are often referred to either vascular or general surgeons for evaluation and treatment. While each venous leg ulcer treatment plan can vary significantly — based upon factors such as the underlying cause of the ulcer, patient history, and other comorbidities — it is compression therapy that is highly regarded as the gold standard treatment.

To get a pulse on the latest on treating VLUs with compression therapy, Surgical Products spoke with Matthew M. Cooper, MD, MBA, FACS, Division Medical Officer, 3M Critical and Chronic Care Solutions Division.

What are the biggest challenges surgeons face in treating VLUs today?

Generally speaking, one of the biggest challenges in treating VLUs is actually the inconsistency in treatment. This includes variations among the clinicians who prescribe treatment, not just surgeons, and the patient's degree of compliance with this. It may be surprising to some, but compression therapy is still not always used when applicable even though clinical studies have shown it can significantly increase VLU healing rates and reduce the likelihood of recurrence. For



Matthew M. Cooper

A growing interest in improving VLU care has sparked a significant amount of research...

in compression therapy over the past 15-20 years.

clinicians who do prescribe compression therapy, many are still prescribing outdated therapy systems including the century-old Unna's Boot and 4-layer bandages introduced in the 1980s.

These more traditional compression therapies have shown success healing VLUs, but tend to lead to lower compliance because they often become loose or are prematurely removed by patients who describe them as uncomfortable, hot and bulky.

Are there any new technologies that can help fill that gap?

A growing interest in improving VLU care has sparked a significant amount of research and development in compression therapy over the past 15-20 years. This research has been based on improving efficacy and quality of life and has resulted in more advanced compression therapy systems. For the past 10 years, new multi-component and 2-layer compression therapy systems have enabled clinicians to make bandage application easier and deliver more effective therapeutic compression.

What is the main difference between traditional and new compression systems?

The newer 2-layer systems, also known as "short stretch" compression therapy systems, provide sustained therapeutic compression without slipping and are low-profile, making them more comfortable to wear. The thin, lightweight bandage system also enables patients to wear their own

shoes to help maintain normal daily routines. These factors have been shown to help increase compliance and the potential for more effective treatment.

For surgeons evaluating new compression therapy systems, what should they look for?

Surgeons should first look for attributes that are considered part of an "ideal compression therapy system." Two years ago, an international group of venous disease experts met to simplify the key principles involved in compression therapy to help encourage greater adoption of the therapy for treating VLU's. As part of that meeting, the group agreed upon a list

and has high stiffness (i.e., the pressure generated is effective during mobilization and is well-tolerated during rest)

- Permits good anatomical fit
- Stays in place (i.e., does not slip)
- Is comfortable
- Allows patients to wear their own shoes and maintain normal gait
- Is easy to apply and remove
- Requires minimal training in fitting and application

Surgeons should first look for attributes that are part of an "ideal compression therapy system."

of ideal compression therapy system attributes, which was published in their post-meeting [consensus paper](#) Simplifying Venous Leg Ulcer Management. The group's recommendations include selecting a compression therapy system that:

- Delivers therapeutic compression

I would also recommend that surgeons review the most recently published research in regards to the new technology on the market. Some studies have compared VLU healing outcomes and patient satisfaction head-to-head with traditional compression therapy systems. Finally, I'd

suggest that they arrange a demonstration of the actual products to see and feel the differences. Participating in such a [product demonstration](#) or application training can help them better understand the new technology and application improvements that can ultimately benefit their patients. **SP**

United States Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION		
1. Publication Title: SURGICAL PRODUCTS 2. Publication Number: USPS # 024-747 3. Filing Date: 10/1/16 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly March, April, May, June, July, Sept. 8-Monthly January/February and November/December 5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 9 6. Annual Subscription Price: US \$126, CAN, MEX, FOR \$180 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Advantage Business Media, 100 Enterprise Drive, Suite 600, Box 912, Rockaway, NJ 07866-0912 Contact Person: Barbara Benack, Telephone: (973) 920-7477 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Advantage Business Media, 100 Enterprise Drive, Suite 600, Box 912, Rockaway, NJ 07866-0912 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher: Todd Baker, Advantage Business Media, 100 Enterprise Drive, Suite 600, Box 912, Rockaway, NJ 07866-0912; Editor: Andrew Berg, Advantage Business Media, 199 E. Badger Road, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53713.		
10. Owner: Advantage Business Media, LLC, 100 Enterprise Drive, Suite 600, Box 912, Rockaway, NJ 07866-0912 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: ORG ASB Holdings Inc. 12. Tax Status: The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months		
13. Publication Title: SURGICAL PRODUCTS 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2016		
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	41,179	41,070
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution		
(1) Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	24,902	22,526
(2) In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS ®	3	0
(4) Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail ®)	0	0
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3) and (4))	24,905	22,526
d. Nonrequested Distribution		
(1) Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541	16,090	18,479
(2) In-County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Non-Requested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail		
(4) Non-Requested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail	54	0
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d. (1), (2), (3) and (4))	16,144	18,479
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)	41,049	41,005
g. Copies Not Distributed	130	65
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	41,179	41,070
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by f times 100)	60.7%	54.9%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requestor Publication is required and will be printed in the November/December 2016 issue of this publication.		
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		
Barbara Benack, Audience Development Manager (Signed)		