Ease of use and reproducibility of provided pressures, comparing 3M™ Coban™ 2 Layer Compression System with four currently marketed compression systems.

Jan Schuren, RgN, BN, MSc¹.
Mark Collier, BA (Hons), RNT, RCNT, ONC, RGN².
1. 3M Deutschland GmbH, Medical Markets Laboratory, Neuss, Germany.
2. Grantham & District Hospital, Grantham, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom.

Objective
- To compare the new 3M™ Coban™ 2 Layer Compression System with established systems and evaluate ease of use and reproducibility of provided pressures.

Materials and methods
- 32 experts in the application of compression bandages were invited to apply a familiar compression system three times to a sensored artificial leg. Next they applied the Coban 2 Layer System three times to the same sensored artificial leg.
- Four compression systems were compared to the Coban 2 Layer System:
  1. ProFore™ Multi-Layer Compression Bandage System, (Smith & Nephew Medical Limited, Hull, England);
  2. Actico® Cohesive Short Stretch Bandage, (Activa Healthcare Limited, Staffordshire, United Kingdom);
  3. Unna’s boot compression system, (Graham-Field Medicopaste®) covered with a 3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap bandage roll (3M Health Care, St. Paul, USA);
- The stretch that was produced by the bandage during use was expressed as an extension ratio, obtained by dividing the length of a line marked on the bandage after application (10 cm) by the length of the line after the bandage had been removed from the leg and allowed to relax.

Results
- Differences were calculated between application 1 and 2 and between application 1 and 3. For the differences, the % change between applied stretch during the applications was calculated. In this way 16 times a % change for each product could be calculated.
- The mean values are presented in the figure below. The analysis revealed that all applicants were significantly more consistent in applying the compression layer of the Coban 2 Layer System at the same stretch, compared to the compression layers of the materials they used routinely.

Conclusion
- In this study, the reproducibility of provided pressures with the Coban 2 Layer System was significantly more accurate when compared to four currently used compression systems.
- In addition, this evaluation revealed that the technique of application was easy and fast to learn as the applications with the new system produced these results after only a short introduction.
- It can be concluded that the new Coban 2 Layer System is a system that is easy to use, and because of a more consistently applied stretch during application, provides more consistent pressure values.