Comparison of Patient Satisfaction and Effectiveness between Two Methods of Gradient Compression Dressings

Valerie Larson-Lohr, MS, APRN; Patrick N. Kimbrell, MD; Edna Patricia Rios, RN, MSN, ACHRN  Center for Wound Care Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital, San Antonio, TX

Introduction
A four-layer gradient compression bandage system* has been the system of choice in our clinic for managing edema associated with venous leg ulcers.

While the dressing has been effective for edema control, it presented problems with patient-centered needs such as comfort, compliance and slippage.

Recently, a new, two layer compression system** has been introduced, and our clinic was interested in evaluating its performance.

Our clinic uses a method for new product consideration that allows us to identify the benefits but also any potential pitfalls in making a change. The process results in data and experience that allows our staff to make a decision.

Patient Survey Questions
- At application, rate the overall comfort for the following parameters: Temperature, Mobility, Appearance, Effectiveness, and Thickness.
- At the return visit, rate the same parameters.
- Lastly, patients are asked to provide their opinion on which dressing they feel has been more effective in treating their condition.

Benefits of 2 layer system
- Patient satisfaction higher in regard to:
  - Temperature
  - Mobility
  - Compliance
- Patients perception of 2 layer system was that product was as effective as current in controlling edema.
- Staff time for application was markedly reduced.
- Application of 2 layer system is easier and less product is utilized in comparison to current.

Staff Survey Questions
- At application, rate the ease of application (as compared to usual product) (Score = 3.6) and the amount of additional supplies required (foam, cast padding, etc.) (Score = 3.3).
- At the patient’s return visit, rate the success of the compression system for dryness, remaining intact, controlling/decreasing edema and whether any reaction/dermatitis was experienced by the patient.

Application Photos

Results
- Patient satisfaction was high for the 2 layer system in the area of temperature, mobility and compliance.
- Patient perception was that overall the 2 layer system was more effective in controlling their edema.
- Staff time for application was markedly decreased, application easier, and less product used in comparison to 4 layer system.
- 2 layer system was cost effective.
- Our center was able to maintain healing outcomes of 90% at 5.1 weeks.

*Profore™ Multi-Layer Bandaging System, Smith & Nephew, Hull, UK  **3M™ Coban™ 2 Layer Compression System, 3M Health Care, St. Paul, Minnesota

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