

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.

Process

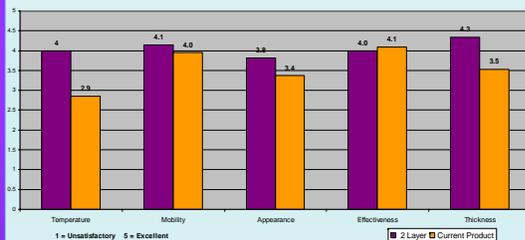
- The evaluation process requires involvement of both staff and our patients.
- Each completes an independent survey tool at the initial application and then completes it at the return visit.
- All survey questions compare the evaluation product to the current product.
- Staff responses are rated using a Likert Scale (1= unsatisfactory 4 = excellent).
- Patient responses are rated using a Likert Scale (1=unsatisfactory 5= excellent).

This evaluation was conducted with 21 patients who were currently using the four layer system. All agreed to participate.

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.

Patient Survey Results



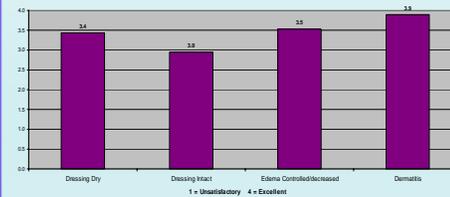
Benefits of 2 layer system

- 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

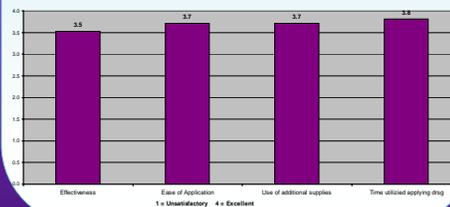
- At application, rate the ease of application (as compared to usual product) (Score = 3.6) and the amount of additional supplies required (foam, cast padding, etc.) (Score =3.3).
- At the patient's return visit, rate the success of the compression system for dryness, remaining intact, controlling/decreasing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

Success of Dressing on Return Visit



- Lastly, compare the evaluation product to the usual one for overall effectiveness, ease of application, use of additional supplies, time utilized to apply the bandage system and healing outcomes.

2 Layer System Compared to Current Product



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.

Application Photos

