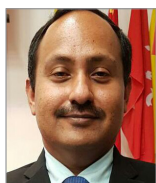


Learning in the new normal and advances in real-world evidence



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Greetings from Asia to my wound care friends and family. I sincerely hope everyone is safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccination exercise has begun in most countries. Malaysia has started vaccinating those in the front line, especially doctors and nurses in both the private and public sector. We are still a long way off in completing the numbers to achieve herd immunity. Hopefully, international travel will be allowed once most health professionals are vaccinated.

The new norm of having conferences, courses, talks, workshops and meetings by webinar or online platforms can be quite cumbersome, especially in the international arena due to the time differences between countries. It also lacks the human touch, where physical meetings allow the speakers to engage with the audience and be able to relate to the audience at their level of understanding. Friendship and intrapersonal communication are experienced better face-to-face compared with a virtual platform. However, due to the circumstances we still have to adhere to strict standard operating procedures for the safety of all.

Many conferences are still virtual and only a few are hybrid in nature. The joint European Wound Management Association (EWMA) and Journees Cicatrisations conference will be held in Paris from the 7–9 July 2021, with a theme of 'Organisation of care, pathways and coordination around complex wound healing'. Meanwhile, the Malaysian Society of Wound Care Professionals (MSWCP) will be organising the International Surgical Wound Complications Advisory Panel (ISWCAP) and ASEAN hybrid wound conference on the 19–20 June 2021 at the Eastin Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The Asian and 3rd Global Wound Conference will be held at the Sunway Convention Centre, in Subang Jaya, Malaysia from the 15–17 October 2021. This is an international annual conference with participants attending from more than 40 countries. Currently, most conferences are virtual or hybrid in nature depending on the number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Sources of education

Wounds International was instrumental in starting Wounds International TV (<https://woundsinternationaltv.com/>) and TVN^{TV} (<https://tvntv.co.uk/>), both of which have videos on COVID-19-related topics with reference to wound management, as well as new modalities.

Evidence in wound care

It is difficult and costly to conduct randomised controlled trials, as they need to be double-blind, multicentre studies with a significant sample population. Therefore, case series and observational studies, considered real-world evidence (RWE), are more common in wound care. They show clinical results such as wound healing, time to healing and clinical outcomes. Although they have a lower level of evidence, RWE studies need to follow a system so that the results of have a higher level of significance. In a recently published article in the *British Medical Journal*, Wang and colleagues (2021) propose a structured template for planning and reporting on real-world evidence studies: STaRT-RWE.

We at *Wounds Asia* want to highlight your great work in the field of wound healing and management and welcome all studies from the various specialities working in multidisciplinary teams. The *Wounds Asia* journal has always been an online journal with open access, this allows a whole host of people to access its publications especially during this ongoing pandemic. Articles on a range of wound care products are included in this edition, including polymeric membrane dressings, biotherapy with maggots, two-layer compression systems and monochromatic infrared therapy in clinical practice. I truly hope that this edition will benefit all our readers. Stay safe. Take care and God bless. Thank you.

WAS

Reference

Wang SV, Pinheiro S, Hua W (2021) STaRT-RWE: structured template for planning and reporting on the implementation of real world evidence studies. *BMJ* 372:m4856. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m4856>