

Looking forward to a year of growth for wound management in 2019



Harikrishna KR Nair is Editor-in-Chief of Wounds Asia; Head and Consultant of Wound Care Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Malaysia

Welcome to the first edition of *Wounds Asia* in 2019. I believe this will be a great year for wound management, with plenty of articles and research that will continue to develop our abilities and improve our multidisciplinary clinical approach to managing chronic complex wounds in Asia. We have to strive to advance our knowledge and skills, and maintain the best care for our patients, while we continue to experience an economic downturn and financial constraints in Asia.

Wounds Asia is still in its infancy, and is only just beginning to crawl. However, we are garnering support in terms of contributions in the form of case series and product studies. This is crucial because this enables numerous centres to publish their work. Many clinicians are carrying out important work but carrying out a randomized controlled trial might prove too difficult or cumbersome. Therefore, we would like to see more articles with clinical-based applications and outcomes which showcase their good work.

Case studies in *Wounds Asia*

In this edition, we have a case study about creams that can be used to manage the periwound area — this is an important topic as keratinocytes originate in the periphery (page 48). Another case report focuses on topical oxygen therapy, used either as a topical continuous oxygen device (pages 24; 38) or as a topical haemoglobin spray, as envisioned by the MOIST concept recommended by WUND-DACH (German-speaking wound healing organisations), in which O stands for oxygen (page 50). Oxygen is a key element for wound healing and is increasingly being used in wound management.

In addition, negative pressure wound therapy using instillation and mobile technology is further explored in a case study of vascular surgery involving the difficult to heal diabetic foot (page 38). Diabetes mellitus is already a pandemic in Asia and every 20 seconds a lower limb is amputated somewhere in the world.

There are also cases describing different types of silver-based dressings, for example, embedded

in polyurethane foams (page 35), which were used to manage the bacterial bioburden in wound bed preparation. There is still substantial use of antimicrobial dressings including silver-based products in Asia because of the high incidence of wound infection and delayed presentation of patients with chronic complex wounds to the wound care units in comparison with the west. This also adds to the issue of health economics.

Another case study describes how a honey-based dressing was used to manage a pressure injury with success (page 32). Pressure injury is a very chronic costly wound that should be prevented with proper nursing care. Many patients succumb to this condition when a wound gets infected and septicemia occurs. The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and the Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance are in the midst of producing one consolidated international guideline on the management of pressure injury. We eagerly await its release, which is expected in the next two years.

Exceptional contributors

I would like to dedicate this issue to two exceptional individuals who have contributed greatly to wound management in our region. Firstly, Dr Bambang Tiksnadi, a senior consultant orthopaedic surgeon from the Hassan Salikin Hospital in Bandung, Indonesia, who recently passed away due to cancer. He was one of the founding members of the Asia Pacific Association for Diabetic Limb Problems and has been an active board member for the past 16 years.

Secondly, Dr Dinesh, former head of the Wound Care Unit at Sungai Buloh Hospital in Malaysia, who managed cases with advanced wound dressings with minimal resources. He passed away as a result of an accident at a far too young age. May their souls rest in peace. They made a difference and I'm glad I had the privilege of working with them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editorial board for their continuous support. Hopefully, more contributors will come forward to provide interesting scientific articles to make it a great journal. Thank you and God bless.

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