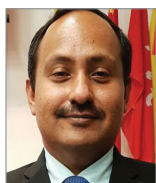


A new platform for gaining insight and knowledge in managing wounds



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

References

- International Working Group on Diabetic Foot (2015) *The 2015 IWGDF Guidance Documents on Prevention and Management of Foot Problems in Diabetes: Development of an Evidence-Based Global Consensus*. Available at: <http://iwgdf.org/guidelines/development-of-the-iwgdf-guidance-documents-2015/> (accessed 6.06.2018)
- Ministry of Health Malaysia (2015) *National Health and Morbidity Study*. Available at: <http://iku.moh.gov.my/images/IKU/Document/REPORT/nhmsreport2015vol2.pdf> (accessed 6.06.2018)
- Ministry of Health (2016) *Wound Care Surveillance Report*. Available at: <https://www.slideshare.net/norfarah5/wound-care-surveillance-manual-2nd-edition-2016> (accessed 6.06.2018)
- Oh TS, Lee HS, Hong JP (2013) Diabetic foot reconstruction using free flaps increases 5-year-survival rate. *Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery* 66(2): 243–50

Wounds can cover diabetic foot ulcers, pressure injury, vascular ulcers or wounds, immunopathic wounds and traumatic wounds. Chronic, hard-to-heal wounds also have an adverse effect on health-related quality of life. Wounds are a global problem, with increasing incidence due in part to the increase in diabetes mellitus. In Asia, there are more than 4 billion people, and this is where diabetes and its complications, namely diabetic foot, are increasing at an alarming rate.

Currently, 17.5% of the Malaysia population has diabetes mellitus (Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2015), while 6.7% of the adult population in the Philippines has diabetes. In Indonesia, which has a huge population of 237.4 million people, the diabetes prevalence is 7%, and in Hong Kong, the prevalence is 11%. Incidentally, 10% of people with diabetic foot ulcers undergo amputation whether it is minor or major amputation. Australia have recorded 7,000 to 8,000 amputations per year. The International Working Group on Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) has classified the diabetic foot as a “foot attack” as every 20 seconds a foot is amputated in the world (IWGDF, 2015).

In Malaysia, 79.3% of people with diabetes undergo treatment in government hospitals and health clinics. Approximately, 0.5% of the patients use traditional remedies. In China, traditional and complementary medicine play a huge part in the health system and many patients seek treatment in these hospitals and health centres.

Organising and centralising best practice in managing wounds

Due to this heavy wound burden, more initiatives and measures have to be taken in order to manage this debilitating condition. There has to be a centralised and organised approach to managing wounds in people with diabetes. Human resources and finances need to be managed well.

The surveillance data of the Ministry of Health of Malaysia (2016) showed that 6.5% of inpatients and 10% of outpatients in governments hospitals presented with

wounds. The outcome was better and more cost-effective with the utilisation of advanced wound dressings.

Budget constraints are a real issue in Asia, and advanced modalities, such as newer dressings, negative pressure wound therapy, stem cells, growth factors, biological products, biotherapy, go hand-in-hand with new strategies and algorithms in managing wounds, especially chronic complex wounds. However, advanced therapies can be more expensive. In addition, new surgical techniques, such as minimally invasive procedures in limb salvage, are gaining popularity. Diabetic foot reconstruction using free flaps has been shown to increase 5-year survival rates to 91.7% according to Oh et al (2013).

The morbidity rate of diabetic foot amputation is high and wound care professionals are working hard to save limbs and lives, and close hard-to-heal wounds in Asia. The theme “Wound Healing with passion” puts all the efforts into a great perspective. We need to manage wounds comprehensively and holistically in a multidisciplinary team approach to achieve better clinical outcomes while minimising complications.

CREATING A NEW COMMON PLATFORM

Therefore, the journal *Wounds Asia* has been launched to serve as a platform to enable the clinicians in Asia to publish their great work and contributions. We hope there will be many contributors to the journal. Case studies and series, as well as evidence-based studies, are encouraged. We wish to encourage more clinicians, especially doctors and paramedics, to publish their superb work. The number of patients with chronic wounds in Asia is overwhelming and they require thorough, holistic management. Publications need to be increased to recognise the hard work of respective stakeholders and specialities in Asia. I sincerely hope that you are able to obtain knowledge and insights with practical solutions in managing wounds.

WAS