

Multidisciplinary working and forming partnerships are key to improving patient outcomes



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Wound management has evolved by leaps and bounds. What started off as wound medicine, whereby medication was applied on the wound bed, has evolved to wound care and wound healing, whereby the holistic care of the patient suffering with wounds are taken into account. The multidisciplinary approach has also been propagated in the wound world or in 'Woundology' as coined by Professor Keith Harding. Interestingly, the first Woundology award was given to Professor Harding in 2013 during the International Wound Conference held in Malaysia.

Partners in Europe

Recently, the Malaysian Society of Wound Care Professionals (MSWCP) became a member of the International Partner Organization of the European Wound Management Association (EWMA). We had a productive meeting at EWMA, which was held in June this year in Gothenburg, Sweden, where we discussed the new partnership, new clinical pathway algorithms and new products as well as watched some excellent presentations. More international collaborations were discussed with the EWMA council.

EWMA have organised a webcast from Copenhagen, Denmark, which will be screened during the 16th Asia Pacific Conference on Diabetic Limb Problems and the 2nd Global Wound Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 18–20 October 2019. This is to enable the delegates and speakers from Asia to learn more about the initiatives and efforts by EWMA in the field of wound care — namely education, training and collaboration with the rest of the world. This is important as we can learn from one another. Incidentally, a new EWMA document on Atypical Wounds (Isoherranen et al, 2019) was launched during the conference, which is timely as there are a lot of atypical wounds in our region. A proper wound assessment and diagnosis are crucial for the management of these wounds.

Friends in America

This year, the Symposium of Advanced Wound

Care (SAWC) and the Wound Healing Society of America held their annual spring meeting in San Antonio, Texas in the United States. I enjoyed being introduced to new, innovative medical wound care devices, alongside discussions with colleagues from all over the world involved in the management of wounds — fellow doctors, as well as podiatrists, nursing consultants and other allied health care professionals from a variety of organizations.

Looking for the evidence

The Asian Wound Care Association (AWCA) met in Shanghai, China, this year, where a new society known as the International Wound Healing Technology Association (IWHTA) was formed to keep abreast with the rapidly advancing wound healing technology. Advanced technological solutions are required to help manage chronic complex wounds, using a multidisciplinary approach with the aim to minimize wound complications.

In addition, research needs to be undertaken so that these technological advances are based on evidence. Evidence-based medicine is crucial and needs to be applied to traditional and complementary medicine in the same way, supporting good clinical outcomes. We then have to study and publish our findings to enable clinicians and other stakeholders in wound management to be able to learn about their effects. These advances or available modalities should not remain in silos in the respective regions or countries; they need to be highlighted and showcased in robust clinical trials as envisioned in evidence-based medicine.

It is my sincere wish that more studies are undertaken and published, even though they might not reach the level of a Cochrane review or a randomized-control trial. This journal promotes a blend of articles, including case studies and series, which showcase interesting and unusual cases managed by different teams and specialists all over Asia. Asia is the largest continent with two-thirds of the world population. There are a lot of wounds being managed here and these great efforts by the various clinicians must be applauded and appreciated. Thank you and God Bless.

WAS

Reference

Isoherranen K, O'Brien JJ, Dissemond J et al (2019) *Atypical Wounds. Best Clinical Practice and Challenges*. Available at: <https://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/abs/10.12968/jowc.2019.28.Sup6.S1> (accessed 3 July 2019)