



POG members are

Patricia Price, <i>Chair</i>	Andreas Arndt
Martin Abel, <i>Co-chair</i>	Hans Lundgren
Jan Apelqvist	Joseph Rolley
Finn Gottrup	Robert Strohal
Luc Gryson	Anne Voss

THE EWMA PATIENT OUTCOME GROUP

For further information about the EWMA Patient Outcome Group, please visit www.ewma.org/english/patient-outcome-group

Any questions concerning EWMA Patient Outcome Group or the document can be sent to EWMA Secretariat: ewma@ewma.org



The EWMA Patient Outcome Group is a sub-group of European Wound Management Association who are working to improve the evidence base in wound care.

The EWMA Patient Outcome Group is supported by an unrestricted grant by:



ConvaTec
Realize the possibilities™



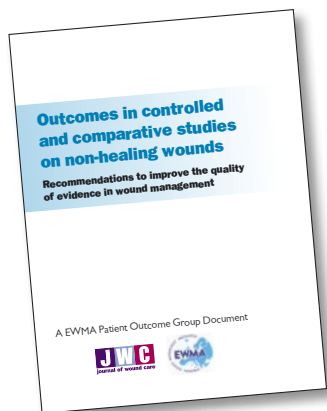
The Patient Outcome Group (POG) was set up in 2008 in response to the on-going debate about increased the need for high-quality data as the basis for clinical decision making and policy development. As part of its remit as a European association, EWMA decided to establish a group consisting of clinicians, researchers and industrial representative to start a dialogue about ways in which the research based on wound care could be strengthened by improved reliability as well as internal and external validity.

The overall objective of the group is to facilitate a discussion among relevant parties in order to identify the gaps in the research base and create broad awareness of the difficulties of conducting pan-European trials in wound care. In addition to this the Patient Outcome Group aims to work, for better understanding of best practice in research and ultimately to support and advocate for political decision-making on behalf of the knowledge, which is ready for translation into clinical practice.

Local authorities and hospital administrators are often not aware of the difficulties of conducting research in this area, and may be misled by opinion driven interpretations of some poorly conducted Randomised Clinical Trials (RCTs).

The first task for the group was to work on the topic of "outcomes", in clinical wound healing research. The participants of the group have published a number of articles, describing the project and their recommendations for the use of outcomes in future studies:

- Finn Gottrup: The EWMA Patient Outcome Group – Joining forces to propose functional guidelines for clinical data collection in wound care, EWMA Journal (2009 vol 9 no 2)
- Jan Apelqvist: Survey on the use of Clinical Guidelines in European Wound Management, EWMA Journal (2009 vol 9 no 3)
- Finn Gottrup: The EWMA Patient Outcome Group, Journal of Wound Care (vol 18, no 11, November 2009)
- Finn Gottrup & Jan Apelqvist (Patricia Price): Leading article: The challenge of using randomized trials in wound healing (British Journal of Surgery, March 2010)



In June 2010 the POG published an evidence document¹, which contains a detailed debate on research in wound healing including recommendations on what the minimal requirements are in order to conduct high-quality, rigorous research in wound care.

This document discusses how to develop a consistent and reproducible approach to define, measure and evaluate appropriate and adequate outcomes.

¹ F. Gottrup, J. Apelqvist, P. Price. "Outcomes in controlled and comparative studies on non healing wounds – Recommendations to improve quality of evidence in wound management" Journal of Wound Care 19(6): 237-268 (Jun 2010)

In the future the POG will continue to spread the message of the need to continuously strengthening the evidence in wound healing. Various groups and stakeholders are being contacted with the aim of discussing the recommendations and ways in which the document could be implemented. Furthermore the group will continue to work together to develop a common study protocol for RCT's in wound healing and to investigate the complexity of reimbursement of wound care services in Europe.

Further details of the EWMA Patient Outcome Group objectives:

To propose revised guidelines for clinical data collection for chronic wounds.	To create and implement consensus on clinical data collection within chronic wound care.
To participate in public debates and influence national policy making relevant for the chronic wound area.	To secure more evidence in wound care without compromising the quality of the evidence obtained.

How will EWMA POG meet the objectives

To reach a true European consensus, EWMA's will approach and involve various key stakeholders at national level. The primary target groups will be research institutions and decision makers (major health care providers). Cooperating organisation will be major contributors to the pan-European discussions and well as partners in the dissemination and implementation plans.

The EWMA Patient Outcome Group has several meetings during the year. EWMA considers the discussion on how to evolve evidence in research of wound care a high priority and hopes that all members of EWMA and professionals working with wounds will contribute to the debate.

EWMA POG Accomplishments

EWMA is helping to conduct a wound survey with the aim of uncovering the true resource costs of wounds to hospital and community care health care providers in different countries in Europe. Uncovering the prevalence of wounds, the time consumption of health care professionals, the costs of treatment materials and wound-related hospitalisation in specific health care providers' organisations, serves to raise awareness of the true significance of good wound care.

The survey has been successfully completed in Denmark and over the next year more countries will join in this research. These findings contribute to the continuing discussion on the lack of clear data on the prevalence and costs of wounds, and how to strengthen the research base in this area².

The EWMA Patient Outcome Group has as its objective to facilitate a better understanding of the economic consequences of wounds. Thus EWMA and the Patient Outcome Group have run a Health Economics Course in Copenhagen which will be repeated as part the EWMA industry course, October 13-14th, 2011 in Budapest.

² F. Gottrup. "EWMA Wound Surveys – Resource consumption for wound care" EWMA Journal 11(2): 60-61 (May 2011)

Furthermore, the group is continuing to disseminate the messages of the POG document by addressing relevant concerns to the authorities in the EU and member states in order to enhance research in wound care and, in turn, create better treatment options for wounds for patients all over Europe.

The group has, in collaboration with the Eucomed Advanced Wound Care Sector Group by means of MEP Vittorio Prodi, enabled a response from the European Commission to a question about future plans for the wound care area.

The group has also, in collaboration with the Eucomed Advanced Wound Care Sector Group, recommended to the European Commission (Directorate General on Health and Consumers) a series of wound-related questions to be included in a national questionnaire on patient safety.

The group is currently working on translating the essential document into German and French in order to spread the key messages. Currently there is a Polish translation of the document, which is available on the website. Furthermore, the German organisation of wound healing societies (BvMed) has endorsed the document.

Future Projects

In phase two POG will focus on the following projects, which will be initiated in 2011:

A common study protocol for RCT's in wound healing, including a definition of control groups

Based on the POG document: Define how to report and to conduct studies in wound management. Starting point will be pressure ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers.

Objective: To increase the quality of wound management research.

Reimbursement in Europe

Identify payers and reimbursement strategies related to services and products in the different European countries.

Objective: Map funding from patients 'Out of Pocket' share vs. health care system/insurance.

An overview of the distribution of research trials (primarily cohort studies, case studies and RCTs) in the last 5 years

Define how many studies of each type and the quality of the studies (not focused on outcomes).

Objective: To increase the number of RCTs in wound management, based on the distribution of research trials.