

## AT RISK FOOT: MODIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S KNOWLEDGE AFTER A ONE YEAR INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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**Aim:** both among neurological and elderly patients, the incidence of foot lesions is high. Most of these complications could be avoided through preventive foot care programs for health care providers (HCP) in long-term hospital settings. But to this date, these programs are insufficient. Thus, our objective was to improve HCP's theoretical knowledge in order to diminish the incidence of foot ulcers in a long-term hospital setting.

**Method:** An **initial** evaluation of the theoretical knowledge of HCP in the field of foot care was carried out through a simple questionnaire (n = 237; nurses, nursing aides, physiotherapists (PT) and occupational therapists (OT), doctors). According to the initial findings, intermediate and specific educational objectives were defined. Among them a pluridisciplinary bi-weekly consultation was developed for at-risk patients. During the consultation, different risk factors and possible therapeutic interventions are discussed with both patient and HCP, leading to an integrated global. Different teaching materials are used to facilitate the learning process. Furthermore, the mobile wound care team helped to spread out this knowledge.

After a **one-year interval**, a second evaluation was conducted (n = 172) through the same questionnaire.

**Results:** three out of the four HCP's groups (nurses, nursing aides, PT and OT) had significantly improved their level of theoretical knowledge in the "at risk foot" domain.

**Conclusion:** An educational program, based on active participation of HCP in a pluridisciplinary consultation, improves theoretical knowledge on the at-risk foot.