

**BASELINE KNOWLEDGE OF WOUND HEALING AND WOUND BED PREPARATION (WBP) OF COMMUNITY DOCTORS AND NURSES IN PORTUGAL**

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**Introduction:** following a study on epidemiology and practice in wound management in community services we have proposed a two year project for education/intervention in order to improve practice in a format that would allow the setting up of regional networks with key professionals to coordinate and implement changes in practice and serve as experts for the region.

**Aim:** This study was undertaken to assess baseline knowledge (identify weaknesses) of participants (future opinion leaders) regarding wound healing and WBP.

**Method:** Fifteen multiple-choice questions were developed and administered to participants at the beginning of the first module. Participants were 33 GP's, 62 nurses, 1 pharmacist and 4 not identified. For statistical inference we used parametric tests such as One-Way t student and ANOVA.

**Results:** Correct results were highest for wound cleansing (91% and 86%) and lowest for debridement (9%) and concept of WBP (12%). Differences between nurses and doctors were not significant with the exception of the question related to concept of WBP ( $p=0.005$ ).

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Basic knowledge of healthcare professionals about wound management is poor. Our results show that the many education programmes, which have been directed mainly to nurses, are not reflected on knowledge of professionals. It is essential to tailor the contents and method of teaching programmes to the weaknesses identified in order to have an impact on the knowledge and, hopefully, on the practice in wound management.

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