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IMPACT OF THE EDUCATION AT THE BEST PRACTICE IN TREATMENT OF LEG ULCER

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Aim: In the primary cares of health, the intervening ones in the treatment of the leg ulcers are the main nurses, for what the adoption of the treatment according to international guidelines passes for a program of formation of these professionals for the implementation of best practices in the treatment of the patients with this pathology. However, one has evidenced that, so that the education if translates change of practical is essential that one corresponds to the needs felt for the professionals and that, on the other hand, it has a accompaniment for the application, in the practical one, of the acquired knowledge and the implementation the identified procedures as necessary.

Methods: For what project of evaluation of the education was decided to carry through one. In this project of intervention 22 nurses of 3 health centers in the Sub-Região de Saúde de Lisboa e Vale do Tejo had been involved.

Theoretician-practical training was become fulfilled on the evaluation of leg ulcer, cares to the skin, choice of the material of dressing and application of compression bandages. To evaluate the knowledge before and after training, inquiries had been become fulfilled before and after-training and became comment of the abilities acquired after training.

Results: The gotten results and its analysis point with respect to a global improvement of the abilities of the professionals in the treatment to the people with venous ulcer.

Conclusions: However, it would be necessary to reevaluate the regularly acquired skills, to evidence the consistency of the cares throughout the time.

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POOR TETANUS-VACCINATION STATUS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC LEG ULCERS: RESULTS OF A PROSPECTIVE INVESTIGATION IN 100 PATIENTS IN GERMANY

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Tetanus is acquired through exposure to the spores of the gram-positive bacterium *Clostridium tetani* which are ubiquitous present. Beside measles and hepatitis B, Tetanus is one of most frequent infections world-wide. World-wide annual deaths from Tetanus in 2002 were estimated by WHO with at least 213.000 persons.

Due to comprehensive vaccination programs the incidence of Tetanus in Central Europe is low nowadays. Nevertheless, in spite of recommendations of health authorities and guidelines elderly patients frequently have lost their vaccination status. Thus, we examined the serologic Tetanus-vaccination status in 100 consecutively examined hospitalised patients between January 2005 and January 2007.

Altogether 38 patients were male, 62 were female. The mean age was 71 years (25-94). In 47% of the examined patients we found no sufficient antibody level for Tetanus. Especially in older patients of more than 80 years an insufficient vaccination titer could be found in 70%.

A chronic leg ulcer could be a well known entry for a Tetanus infection. In contrast to acute wounds chronic leg ulcers often seems to be no reason for physicians to control the patients vaccination status. As a consequence from our results we would like to point out to the necessity that in particular in patients with a chronic leg ulcer wound-therapists should check the vaccination status of their patients and if necessary to refresh it.