

## TELEMEDICINE IN THE HANDLING OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC WOUNDS – A 2-YEAR EXPERIENCE

Rolf Jelnes

*“Sår-i-Syd”, Sygehus Sønderjylland, Denmark*

Since February 2006 we have used telemedicine as a tool in the handling of patients with chronic wounds.

Until now 465 patients with 565 wounds are registered on our database.

In order to get maximal benefit of our concept, the wound care nurse in the primary health care, have to make use of a Doppler for measuring the ankle pressure, Vistrax to measure wound size, and a monofilament and tipterm to evaluate neuropathy, all of which can be carried in a little handbag.

When the wound care nurse visits the patient, data on the patient, the wound, the result of the investigations are transmitted to the database using a mobile telephone, together with a photo, taken by the same mobile.

A notification is send to the doctor at the wound healing center by an e-mail and a sms. On any computer, as the system is web-based, a decision is made on treatment and when the patient is to seen in the out-patient clinic for further diagnostics,

In the course of treatment, data is monitored, thus being able to intervene in case of deterioration at an early stage.

At the same time the database tells us on our quality of treatment.

We have looked into the available data on traumatic wounds (n=36). A healing rate of 22.5% is our performance.

More data will be presented healing rate of venous ulcers, postthrombotic, ulcers etc.

We believe that this concept is a win-win-win situation. The patients as well as the primary and secondary health care – all benefit.