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OUTCOMES IN CONTROLLED AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES ON NON HEALING WOUNDS – RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EVIDENCE IN WOUND MANAGEMENT

A EWMA PATIENT OUTCOME GROUP DOCUMENT

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The accepted way to assess effectiveness and quality in health care is evidence-based practice (EBP), which focus on the use of current best evidence in decision making concerning wound care patients. The question is which type of intervention, technology and dressing materials are the best.

In the wound area recent reviews have shown little or no convincing evidence of significant difference in time to healing or percent healing between wound technologies and treatment products.

With this background EWMA established the EWMA Patient Outcome Group in 2008. The group includes clinical experts from different European countries and members from regulatory departments of industrial companies in wound care.

Members of the EWMA Patient Outcome Group propose that outcome of wound treatment is the central issue to be revised in relation to the clinical data collection within wound management. Outcome parameters like quality of life, infection rate, cost effectiveness are therefore discussed as an important addition to wound healing.

This presentation focus on the first publication from the group, presenting an outline of the challenges related to evidence in wound care and a definition of meaningful evidence/outcomes usable from the clinical point of view. The group look for the highest possible standards that will help solve clinical challenges in relation to the testing of medical device products and treatment structures for different types of problem/chronic wounds.