



**CWA**  
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## Review of the 5th Symposium on Chronic Wounds with International Participation:

# Atypical Wounds

In accordance with the basic aim of the Croatian Wound Association (CWA), which is education of health personnel of all profiles and specialities on all levels of health care, we organised the 5th Symposium on Chronic Wounds under the title Atypical Wounds. The topic of the Symposium was chosen with the aim of rounding off knowledge in the area of chronic wounds, with regard to the fact that previous Symposia discussed Decubitus, Lower Leg Ulcers, Diabetic Foot and Chronic Wounds: Local Treatment as a Challenge for Clinicians. All the Symposia had international participation.

The Symposium on Atypical Wounds was organised by the CWA and the Wound Management Association of Slovenia (WMAS), both members of the European Wound Management Association. The Symposium was held in Primošten, a beautiful venue in central Dalmatia on the Adriatic Sea, from October 24 to 26, 2012.

We chose the topic of Atypical Wounds for our 5th Symposium because such have a very complex pathophysiological aetiology, are difficult to recognise and diagnose correctly, and have complex treatment. With regard to the exceptional complexity of atypical wounds, an interdisciplinary approach to the management of such conditions is imperative for good clinical practice. This requires a precise examination and supervision of the patient, determination of pathogenesis, establishing of differential diagnosis in the shortest possible time, and optimal targeted treatment.

The Symposium included invited professional and scientific lectures by eminent experts from Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Sweden, and countries of the region. In addition, eight workshops including practical work took place. The total number of participants was 180; of these, 120 were health personnel, most of who participated in our earlier Symposium. The knowledge participants gained is important in clinical practice with patients suffering from chronic wounds. There were 30 invited lecturers and the Symposium included plenary lectures, patient presentations, workshops, and above all, a lively and fruitful discussion. Contrary to earlier years, the presentations of sponsors were also well attended.

The topics of the Symposium on Atypical Wounds were as follows:

### Definition and classification of atypical wounds:

#### **Autoimmune diseases**

- Wounds in autoimmune bullous dermatoses and systemic connective tissue diseases
- Vasculitis and vasculopathy
- *Pyoderma gangrenosum* – case report

#### **Dermatological diseases**

- Wounds and dermatoses
- Current wound care in patients with elephantiasis – third-stage lymphedema
- Pemphigus chronicum vulgaris – case report

#### **Rare atypical wounds**

- Wounds in vascular and metabolic diseases
- Wounds in hematology patients
- Malignant wounds
- Wounds in genital and oral regions
- Wounds in children and epidermolysis bullosa
- Squamous cell carcinoma – case report

#### **Other atypical wounds**

- Calciphylaxis
- Dermatitis artefacta – psychiatric causes
- Self-mutilation – artifacts – case report
- Surgical approach to atypical wounds (clinical cases)
- Subcutaneous ischemic arteriosclerosis (Martorell ulcer, calciphylaxis, eutrophication)

### **The importance of compressive therapy**

The workshops were lively and well attended, with up to 20 participants each. Every Symposium participant could choose the workshops according to individual interests and take part in one to four of the workshops.

The topics of the workshops were as follows:

- The role of short-stretch bandage in lymphedema therapy
- Complications of inappropriate compression therapy
- Role of negative pressure therapy in the treatment of chronic wounds
- Application of modern dressings in the treatment of chronic wounds