



Marcus Gürgen
Senior Consultant Surgeon

Wound Healing Unit,
Dept. of Surgery,
Sørlandet Sykehus HF,
N-4400 Flekkefjord

marcus.gurgen@sshf.no

Wound Infections

Report from the Annual Meeting in Bodø, February 2009



The 12th annual meeting of the Norwegian Wound Healing Association (NIFS) was held in Bodø on February 5th and 6th 2009. 300 participants from the whole country attended the conference. Speakers from Norway and Denmark were invited.

The organizing committee had chosen "Wound Infections" as topic. Our understanding of the microbiology is changing, as new terms as biofilms are emerging. Those changes will probably influence our way of treating chronic wounds. Nowadays, a lot of chronic wounds are unfortunately treated with antibiotics all too often. A survey presented at the conference showed that 57.3% of all patients with chronic wounds treated in primary health care in a Southern Norwegian region had received antibiotics prior to referral to a wound healing unit. This overuse of antibiotics, often representing the only therapeutic option taken, underlines the need to discuss the subject of wound infection.

The programme was divided into four sessions:

- The microbiology of chronic wounds
- Treatment of wound infections
- Prophylaxis of wound infections
- Surgical infections and wound infections in drug addicts

Finn Gottrup represented EWMA as invited speaker, lecturing on the incidence, prophylaxis and treatment of surgical site infections (SSI). Gottrup gave a very interesting and thorough presentation of this topic. He stated that the number of SSI still can be reduced, and recommended prophylactic strategies such as antibiotics, supplementary perioperative oxygen and hygienic precautions.

Scholarships provided by NIFS's industrial sponsors were handed out before dinner. Hanne Kåsamoen Halvorsen received Smith&Nephew's travel grant to participate in the 2009 EWMA conference in Helsinki. Mölnlycke Health Care's scholarship went to Eva Christiansen. Last, but not least, the author of this article was surprised by receiving NIFS's honorary prize for his contributions to wound healing in Norway.

The feedback from conference participants was excellent. In fact, several of those present declared this meeting to be the best ever organized by NIFS.

The national NIFS meeting in 2010 will take place in Tønsberg, the topic being "The difficult wound – or difficult wound healing?"



Bo Jørgensen and Rolf Jelnes, our invited guests from Denmark

Leif Aanderud, NIFS-leader

NIFS Norsk Interesselaggruppe For Sårhelning



Øystein Vatne, Førde Sykehus

Guro Vaagbø from Haukeland Sykehus, Bergen

Finn Gottrup, invited speaker from Denmark, represented EWMA

Arne Langøen from Høgskolen/Stord Haugesund

The exhibition

