



SEHER

The Spanish Society of Wounds



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EWMA
Cooperating Organisation

Sociedad Española de Heridas

SEHER is a non-profit scientific organization founded in 2008. The aim of SEHER is to bring all professionals involved in wound care together in a partnership with the following objectives:

- Promote excellence in research, education, prevention, care and treatment of all kinds of wounds.
- Promote the concept of a multidisciplinary approach in the management of wounds, while safeguarding the areas of competence of each professional group.
- Encourage a constant promotion of the knowledge of the health professionals involved.
- Cooperate with other associations or groups whose goals are to improve the quality of the management of wounds.
- Spread among the population procedures and behaviours which help to improve the treatment and care of wounds.

In order to achieve and promote these objectives SEHER organizes and sponsors a number of scientific activities. An annual Congress on Wounds and Healing (Congreso de Heridas y Cicatrización) will take place every year. The first was in 2011 and the second in 2012; more than 1500 professionals attended each one.

In the Congresses an effort is made to invite pre-eminent experts in the different fields of wound healing, both international and national. Plenary sessions give the delegates the opportunity to learn the most up to date approaches to the hot topics in wound management and research. Round tables are designed to discuss different aspects on five main topics: diabetic foot, pressure ulcers, burns, vascular wounds and surgical wounds. A program of workshops gives the delegates the chance to have real hands-on sessions on basic and advanced techniques in wound management. The average figures of the past two Congresses was 80 speakers, 95 free communications and 112 posters.

Our next Congress will take place in autumn 2013 in Madrid.

In addition to the Congress, SEHER organizes and sponsors a number of instructional scientific meetings such as annual courses on Scientific Methodology, Plastic Surgery and Diabetic Foot. For next spring it has scheduled a Symposium in Barcelona on Negative Pressure Therapy.

SEHER leads the Academia SEHER de Cuidado de Heridas (SEHER Academy on Wound Management). The Academy is the means by which SEHER teaches and improves the knowledge and skills level

of professionals dealing with wounds. It has five areas: Burns, pressure ulcers, vascular wounds and surgical wounds and uses a mixed methodology including virtual and on site learning. The program is modular based so ultimately the professional can add modules to his curriculum to end in a university masters degree.

Heridas & Cicatrización (H&C) is the journal of SEHER. Issue number 1 was published in 2010 and to date ten issues have been released. Each issue features between nine and ten papers. Each issue has at least one review paper presenting the state of the art opinion on different topics on wound healing. In addition, there are three to four original articles from both national and international authors, and there is also a paper which focuses on the role of a multidisciplinary team approach to wound management. Every issue also presents some clinical cases and a press review with comments on relevant papers which have appeared in other journals. Every paper has an English abstract.

SEHER supports different research projects in the field of wound management such as proteases in chronic wounds, infection in diabetic foot, dermal substitutes in burns, physiopathology of scars.

In Spain wounds have traditionally been managed by nurses, mainly because of the disinterest of doctors. SEHER is trying to involve more medical specialties in wound management as we believe that wounds must be approached and treated by a multidisciplinary team. In the last years some Wounds Units have been developed in hospitals and are achieving excellent results in terms of lowering morbidity, hospitalization, and economic costs. All the activities of SEHER are focused on encouraging more and more professionals to participate in this multidisciplinary approach to wound management.

Spain is currently living in a deep economic crisis and health care cannot escape its repercussions. Economic cuts in the budgets dramatically affect health providers in wound care; more and more health products are being removed from the catalogue of financed materials by the national health system.

SEHER, as a scientific organization, is willing to become a valid interlocutor with the health authorities to provide information and advice, and to work with the decision makers to develop a health policy supported by scientific foundations. ■