



WMAS

Wound
Management
Association
Slovenia



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Cooperation between WMAS and EWMA

This article is based on the reflections made when preparing a presentation for the meeting of the EWMA Cooperating Organisations Board during the Geneva conference. It aims to consider the benefits of the cooperation between WMAS and EWMA and points to some key aspects of the cooperation.

Under EWMA's umbrella WMAS has made significant progress during recent years. We got a lot of very interesting and useful information about work, research and education in the field of wounds together with valuable expert support. We also had the opportunity to meet a lot of very nice people, to work together, and to join our ideas, knowledge and experiences to improve our services in wound care.

The Wound Management Association of Slovenia

The Wound Management Association of Slovenia (WMAS) was established in 2001 at University Clinical Centre in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. It joins together different professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists and local distributors) working with chronic wounds all over Slovenia. We are all working together with one final goal, namely that of making wound management and therapy more successful and the quality of patients' life better.

By collecting new data, exchanging our own experiences, educating medical staff and patients, we try to introduce and implement new guidelines in practice. We also negotiate with the Health Insurance Institution and the Ministry of Health for reimbursement of dressings and compression materials.



Meeting between EWMA and WMAS representatives, Ljubljana, December 2007.

WMAS has an internet page with a variety of very useful information. Please visit it on www.dors.si and also view the WMAS introduction film.

During the last ten years WMAS members have been very busy. We have organised Symposiums with workshops two to three times per year, for which we also invited speakers from EWMA. Zena Moore was in Čatež in 2008 and Luc Gryson at Bled in 2009, both visits giving us a lot of new and useful information.

With the permission of the EWMA Council all EWMA Position Documents were translated into Slovenian by WMAS members. The documents were presented at the WMAS symposium in Moravske Toplice in October 2007 and had a significant influence on implementation of new Slovenian guidelines in practice.

The Leg Ulcer Project

The largest leg ulcer study ever undertaken in Slovenia has been carried out by WMAS with support from EWMA and is almost finished. Many WMAS members have spent their free time and weekends to accomplish this job and it has been possible only because of these highly motivated professionals committed to their work. During the process we have had meetings in Slovenia with the scientific lead of the project, Prof. Peter Franks and staff from the EWMA Secretariat, who helped us both in planning the project and processing the data.

In the first phase (identification) the prevalence of all wounds in the Dolenjska region was estimated at 1.8/1000. In second phase (education), the medical staff that cooperated in 1st phase of LUP was additionally educated according to the guidelines of WMAS and EWMA. They had lectures on all kinds of chronic wounds and workshops (ABPI workshop, compression workshop, local wound therapy workshop). They sat the same exam at the



Members of WMAS after Symposium about Venous and Pressure Ulcers, Bled, April 2005.



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beginning and at the end of education and it was apparent that their level of knowledge was significantly improved.

In the third phase (implementation) all included patients from the first phase and new one were re-assessed in outpatient clinics in Novo Mesto and Črnomelj. New wound therapy was advised according to WMAS and EWMA guidelines. We are awaiting the results about new prevalence.

In April 2008 Deborah Hoffman from EWMA visited Ljubljana to coordinate WMAS guidelines for wound treatment and to help us prepare the program for the 2nd phase of LUP. The first WMAS guidelines for wound treatment with modern dressings were edited in 2009.

WMAS Publications and Advocacy for Reimbursement

EWMA representatives helped us to negotiate with Slovene Health Insurance Institutions and the Ministry of Health about reimbursement for dressings and compression material. We were already successful in the area of compression stockings for lymphoedema, partly on the area of dressings for chronic wound and we are still negotiating for reimbursement for short stretch compressing bandages for patients with venous leg ulcers.

We have also edited brochures for patients about compression, venous, pressure and diabetic ulcers and are planning to prepare the new handbook about acute and chronic wounds in Slovenian soon.

WMAS members attended EWMA congresses every year. We presented different interesting topics about wounds both as speakers and with poster presentations. We have also presented results from the Leg Ulcer Project (LUP) in Slovenia.

WMAS appreciates EWMA's continued support and is keen to cooperate with the other Cooperating Organisations in the future. We are interested in being involved in international educating teams for chronic wounds all over the Europe. We are also prepared to organise such international educating courses in Slovenia. We are willing to be involved in different international studies about wounds with the aim of improving our knowledge and making our patients' lives better. ■



The October 2010 edition of the EWMA Journal Electronic Supplement consist of five scientific articles from the Italian journal *Acta Vulnologica*, which have not previously been published in English:

- Normothermic treatment of pressure ulcers: preliminary results of the first Italian multicenter randomized trial
M. Romanelli, C. Brilli, R. Panni, E. Ricci, A. Scalise, U. Bovone, A. Richetta, C. Fabbri, D. Hanna
- Clinical and Economic impact of a community outpatient Wound Care Centre
P. Longobardi, E. Piccinini, D. Poddie, B. Caruso, F. Laghi, A. Aimola, A. Zappi, E. Di Ruscio, T. Carradori
- Comorbidities in aged patients with leg ulcers
M. Gonella, E. Martinelli, E. Ricci
- Psychological support in the treatment of chronic skin lesions
M. Boggio Marzet, K. Somà, S. Furlini
- Compression therapy in patients with reduced mobility following thopic lesions of the lower limbs
G. Mosti

[www.ewma.org/english/ewma-journal/
electronic-supplement.html](http://www.ewma.org/english/ewma-journal/electronic-supplement.html)

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