The EWMA Patient Outcome Group, chaired by Professor Finn Gottrup has initiated a European survey project on resource utilisation related to wound management in hospital and community-based health-care organisations. The surveys are carried out in collaboration with the Advanced Wound Care Sector (AWCS) of Eucomed (the European trade organisation for medical device companies).

The aims of the surveys are:

- To identify type and number of wounds under treatment and provide an estimate of the amount of clinician time and inpatient bed-days directly attributable to wound care.

- To highlight the importance of specialist wound care expertise, by illustrating the high prevalence of wounds among hospital and community patients and the significant proportion of available resources which are devoted to wound complications, many of which could be avoided.

The survey takes the form of a point prevalence study. In an acute hospital it is likely to take 1-2 days. In a community healthcare organisation the focus is on patients receiving treatment for a wound in the study week.

The surveys will be conducted in several European countries. The first survey was undertaken as a pilot study and took place in the UK in 2005. The estimated cost of wound care was £2.5 - £3.1 million per 100,000 population and in total 1644 patients had a total of 2300 wounds. The next survey is taking place in Denmark in two regions:

- The mid-Jutland Region
  - The Region hospital in Viborg and the community of Viborg
- The Copenhagen Region
  - The Hilleroed Hospital and the community of Hoersholm

In both Regions the number of wounds in the hospital beds, in the home care service and in the nursing homes were recorded during the first two weeks of March. In total more than 600 patients with one or more wounds were found in the surveyed institutions. The data will be analysed during the last weeks of March and the report on the Danish Wound Survey will be presented at the EWMA conference in Geneva 26-28. May 2010.

The next survey will be undertaken in Italy and the results will be reported in a later issue of the EWMA Journal.

The aim of the document is to provide recommendations on the accepted level of rigour for studies in wound management and to develop a consistent and reproducible approach to define, evaluate and measure appropriate and adequate outcomes in RCTs as well as clinical studies.

The document provide statements on how to improve evaluations of new treatment strategies with regards to outcome to meet the need for evidence based information in wound management. It also describes the particular considerations that have to be recognised when evaluating treatment strategies in non healing wounds.