

WORLD FIRST

The international clinical trial EXPLORER is the first study to demonstrate the efficacy of a dressing (UrgoStart®) in diabetic foot ulcer healing¹

A REVOLUTION IN DIABETIC FOOT ULCER TREATMENT AND CARE

Published in THE LANCET Diabetes & Endocrinology on March 20th, the EXPLORER¹ clinical trial is the first clinical study to demonstrate the efficacy of a dressing in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers: UrgoStart® heals 60% more patients compared to a well-managed standard treatment and reduces healing time by 60 days compared to the average healing time of 180 days using a standard protocol.

This represents a major therapeutic advance for diabetic foot ulcer patients as well as for health professionals dealing with the condition.

Diabetic foot ulcers are one of the major complications of diabetes. Between 19 and 34% of all diabetics will develop a foot ulcer at some point in their lives². This very high frequency is extremely concerning, especially bearing in mind that by 2040 some 640 million people throughout the world will suffer from diabetes³.

With one amputation carried out every 20 seconds, diabetes is the world's leading cause of amputation⁴. Following amputation, life expectancy for these patients is below 5 years in around 70% of cases². This survival rate is well below that of some cancers⁶.

This alarming figures reflecting a genuine public health challenge, both for patients suffering from a potentially life-threatening condition, and for healthcare systems having to bear the costs.

Until now, no dressing with proven efficacy in healing these wounds existed.

THE EXPLORER STUDY, HOPE FOR DIABETICS

Conducted in 240 patients in five European countries, the Explorer study represents a clinical research first in the field of diabetic foot ulcers. The randomised, double-blind (neither patient nor doctor know which dressing is used to treat the wound) study compares the efficacy and tolerance of the UrgoStart® (TLC-NOSF* matrix) dressing to those of a neutral dressing on neuro-ischaemic diabetic foot ulcers. These ulcers are the wounds with the poorest prognosis due to their simultaneously neuropathic and vascular component (they damage the peripheral nerves and arteries).

The results:

- **A significantly higher healing rate** compared to a well-managed standard treatment, representing +60% more patients healed.

- **A significantly shorter healing time (reduced by 60 days)** compared with the average healing time in the control group of 180 days.
- Moreover, when the **treatment (UrgoStart®)** is initiated early, it **significantly increases the chances of the patient being cured** compared to a well-managed standard treatment.

"Each day that a patient with diabetes has a foot ulcer, there is the risk of infection and amputation. The Explorer study showed that UrgoStart healed more neuro-ischaemic foot ulcers than standard treatment and on average 60 days more quickly. This reduces the risk of infection for patients" enthuses Dr. Michael Edmonds, Professor of Diabetic Foot Medicine at King's College Hospital (London).

"The LANCET Diabetes & Endocrinology is one of the most respected international scientific journals. Publication of the EXPLORER study in such a prestigious journal underlines the quality of the study and the significance of its results", specifies Laurent Faugère, Urgo Medical CEO. "More than a dressing, it is a genuine treatment that has a full role to play in the current management protocol for chronic foot ulcers in diabetic patients."

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Find out more about Urgo Medical:

Urgo Medical is URGO Group's advanced wound healing division. Because serious wounds cause considerable suffering around the world, our mission is to bring relief and heal patients by providing healthcare professionals with the most appropriate therapeutic strategies and care protocols. With more than 1,600 employees and a presence in 35 countries (subsidiary or local partner), in 2017, Urgo Medical had a turnover of 265 million euros. It is the 2nd largest wound-healing player in the European market.

Find out more about the LANCET Diabetes & Endocrinology: The *LANCET Diabetes & Endocrinology* is one of the most highly respected international scientific journals. Each month, an independent and demanding scientific committee selects and publishes major medical and clinical research advances in the field of diabetology and endocrinology.

UrgoStart®: Indications: the treatment of chronic wounds (leg ulcers, pressure ulcers, diabetic foot wounds and acute wounds that have become chronic). Please read the leaflet carefully.

Class IIb medical device (GMed)

Manufacturer: Laboratoires URGO.

*TLC matrix impregnated with NOSF (Nano OligoSaccharide Factor) = KSOS (potassium sucrose octasulfate)

References:

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