Should doctors be trained to do compression?

Knut Kröger
Helios Klinikum Krefeld
Dpt. of Angiology
Germany

Compression therapy is an evidence based treatment concept in patients suffering from chronic venous insufficiency and especially venous leg ulcer. Beside compressions stockings and modern adaptive compression systems, compressions bandages are still used worldwide. Usually compression bandages are applied by nurses and they are specifically trained to do this. But the indication for compression therapy is in the responsibility of the doctors and doctors have to control the effectiveness of compression therapy.

The question is how doctors can judge about correct or incorrect use of compression bandages, when they are not familiar with the technic and the variety of material offered by the industry and not trained. Thus the authors postulate a specific training for doctors to enable them to recommend a specific product and to recognise incorrect compression therapies that reduces treatment efficacy or might even harms the patient.