



- Title**            **Wound Team – Organization of Treatment to Patients with Problem Wounds. A Health Technology Assessment**
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## Aim

To study the introduction of a wound management service organized around a wound team and to assess this alternative compared with wound management organized in the traditional manner.

## Conclusions and results

Only a few fixed procedures exist for surgical revision and the use of wound care products, although these products have been used for many years. The project utilizes an experienced-based combination of modern and traditional wound care products and procedures. Patients treated by the wound team experienced more rapid treatment decisions, according to the findings. Also, patients experienced less pain in connection with dressing changes and were better informed than patients treated prior to introduction of the wound team.

The wound team has upgraded the knowledge about wounds and wound management, and the project has recorded a difference between wound care administered by and without the wound team. Wound healing improved, as measured by a greater reduction in patients' wound areas ( $P=0.08$ ), a greater number of patients with complete healing ( $P=0.04$ ), and uniform, systematic use of modern wound care products ( $P=0.03$ ).

Although an extensive health economic analysis could not be performed, it is highly probable that the wound team comprises an appropriate use of resources. By providing a structured, systematic, wound management service for patients with problem wounds, the project has shown that an important determinant of outcome is the manner in which wound management is organized.

## Recommendations

Wound teams are an appropriate way to organize wound management services for patients with problem wounds. How, and the extent to which, wound teams should be organized at the individual hospital or county level depends largely on how the regional healthcare authorities have organized their hospital sector.

## Methods

Based on findings from a previous health technology assessment (HTA) that wound management services in hospitals are suboptimal, the present HTA focuses on internal conditions within the hospital. The primary care sector was omitted due to a shortage of resources and time. The study was designed as an intervention study with an historical control group.

## Further research/reviews required

Future studies should be designed to enable better documentation of the effects of preventative measures and to better account for changes in referral patterns.