Effect of Compression... Beyond the Swollen Leg

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Compression applied at the level of the ankle and standardized for the management of venous leg ulcers (VLU). Mechanisms of the impact of compression on healing of VLU have focused primarily on the aspect that compression has a beneficial effect on venous return with concomitant augmentation of capillary flows. The findings of these studies demonstrates that compression has a beneficial therapeutic impact on VLU healing. The goal of this study was to illustrate the non-compressing effect of compression therapy on the chronic non-healing venous ulcer patient.

Methods: Five patients (3 males, 2 females) between ages of 54 and 82, presented to our institute with recalcitrant ulcerations that were resistant to conventional treatment protocols. Each patient received moist wound care and Fuzzy Wale Elastic compression textile which was directly on the wound base. Fragile epithelium or the appearance of epithelization along the ‘furrows’ created by the non-compressing compression were documented.

Conclusion: Compression has been shown to have an impact on the macrovascular changes with little to no attention on microvascular changes. Thus, compression combined with other modalities may be indicated when these types of treatments are feasible.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Fuzzy Wale Elastic compression textile is a material that is composed of fuzzy wale knitted materials that are directly on the wound base. Fuzzy Wale creates a unique compression textile that compresses 20% of the skin surface.

The non-compressing evaluation tests between the fuzzy wale based textile and the traditional compression therapy, that compresses 20% of the skin surface.

There is clearly need for additional scientific investigation at the mechanisms of ulcers of the type of compression, as well as the clinical guidance for the spectrum of wound healing and edema management.

References


