

Conference report- Irena Pukiova

EWMA 2023 (European Wound Management Association) – Milan, Italy

I have been working as a senior critical care nurse and tissue viability nurse for critical care unit since 2007 until 2021. In November 2021, I relocated to corporate team as advanced nurse practitioner, Tissue Viability with special interest and cover for all critical care units in the hospital – adult intensive care unit, neuro intensive care unit, paediatric and cardiac intensive care unit.

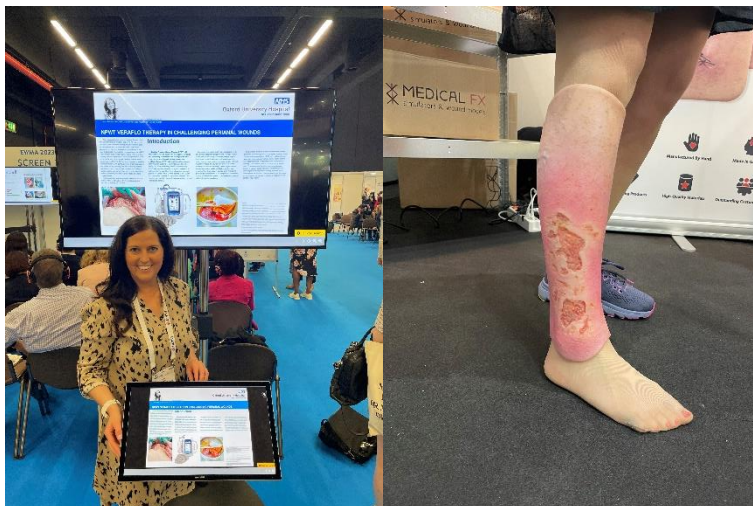
The mission of our organization is to improve care and experience of our patients through delivering excellent and compassionate care. The important aspect in delivery of high standards and evidence-based care is support of health care professionals in their training and ongoing education to be able to deliver the care we are aiming for. As a tissue viability nurse specialist, I am in daily contact with patients and nurses supporting the provision and delivery of wound care around hospital wards in our hospital.

Tissue viability speciality is a fast-moving discipline of nursing which requires to keep up with research and latest guidelines and protocols. I believe that my attendance at the EWMA conference will benefit patients, the tissue viability service but also my colleagues in diverse ways. The conference took place over three days with busy programme full of research, interactive workshops, and updates on latest changes on guidelines and policies in wound care and pressure ulcer prevention.

I attended paediatric session to enhance my knowledge to guide me through process of implementation of latest research into hospital protocols to improve current standards of care within this speciality. It was surprising to get to know that not many paediatric critical care tissue viability resources are available and most of the protocols are adopted from adults. The session highlighted need for paediatric tissue viability work stream.

I was selected to present a complex clinical case study at the conference. I presented USE OF Vacuum assisted closure (VAC) VERAFLOR THERAPY IN CHALLENGING PERIANAL WOUND. A 52-year-old patient was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) after a laparotomy for sepsis secondary to a perforated retrocaecal appendicitis. Patient required six re-look surgeries across the urology, plastic surgery, and general surgery teams for progression of Necrotising fasciitis. The 59-day ICU admission was complicated by sepsis, pulmonary emboli, acute kidney injury, delirium, a prolonged mechanical ventilation wean, complex wound management, and multiple peri-arrest episodes. The patient made a prolonged but good recovery with excellent multi-disciplinary involvement. In this case the multi-disciplinary aggressive approach to Necrotizing

fasciitis (debridement, antibiotic therapy, resuscitation, tissue viability and nutritional care) allowed the patient to survive. The use of the NPWT with instillation facilitated the removal of devitalised tissue, eliminating spread of further infection and decreased the tissue oedema. The application of NPWT increased the granulation tissue in the wound within 4 weeks and supported early successful closure of the wounds and grafting. The advanced therapy and wound management in this case saved patients life and contributed to much faster recovery. It is important that cases like that are shared with international audience as it will positively influence clinical decision making and delivery of safe care which has direct impact on patients and their families. The first successful clinical case influenced my clinical decision making and allowed me to guide the patient's care with confidence which made significant difference for other two different patients I cared for last year.



I also appreciated companies' exhibition. I particularly liked stand with different types of wounds and their models. Models as such would be a great addition for our simulation wound care training which will positively influence other health care professionals within our organisation.

I enjoyed the EWMA conference, and I am feeling empowered and full of enthusiasm to make positive changes in our day-to-day practice.

Thank you BACCN for funding my registration for the conference, without your support I wouldn't be able to attend.

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