

Case Study: The role of the geko™, a portable electrical stimulation device, in assisted healing of a venous leg ulcer.

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Background

An 87 year old female with a history of venous leg ulcers presented with an ulcer on her right outer leg just above the ankle. She had been receiving treatment for cellulitis in both legs with oral antibiotics, topical steroids and dressings being used over a 6 month period without noticeable improvement. Doppler ultrasound revealed ankle brachial index left leg 1.2 and right leg 1.0 and she was measured for and treated with compression hosiery class 2 size medium.

The geko™ therapy

The geko™ device was applied to the right knee for at least 4 hours a day, for 6 weeks to increase blood circulation, instead of compression stockings. Treatment was stopped due to the patient suffering a fracture of the arm (in an unrelated fall).

Results

After 3 day's treatment with the geko™ device, the patient reported feeling less pain around the ulcer. A steady improvement in ulcer healing was recorded by the practice nurse on weekly examination during treatment with the geko™ device. Following treatment the ulcer continued to heal. The device was described as being easier and more comfortable to use than compression stockings.



Before geko™ treatment



After 6 weeks of geko™ treatment

Conclusion

A venous leg ulcer, showed significant healing following 6 weeks of therapy with the geko™ device. It was easier and more comfortable to use than compression stockings as reported by the patient. It is planned to use the geko™ device to reduce her recurring ankle oedema.