



AISLeC

ASSOCIAZIONE INFERMIERISTICA
PER LO STUDIO DELLE LESIONI CUTANEE
Società scientifica italiana a carattere interdisciplinare



Consensus Conference on the Assessment and Management of Heel Pressure Injuries

Call for interest

AISLeC, the Italian Nurses' Association for the Study of Wound Care, a not-for-profit organization with 25 years of activity in research and education in wound care, is proud to announce the first International Consensus Conference on the Assessment and Management of Heel Pressure Injuries.

Introduction

Heel pressure Injuries (PIs) are the second most common site for pressure ulceration.¹ Their prevalence vary widely depending on the characteristics of population examined, ranging from 7.3% to 18.2% in the adult setting.² Overall, heel PIs account for up to a third of all documented PIs.³

Despite their prevalence and social and economic impact, heel PIs have been poorly studied.⁴ Research in this field is very limited even if heel PIs' potential complications are well known: indeed they are associated with psychological and physical suffering, an increased morbidity and mortality rate and higher overall health care costs. In addition, they affect rehabilitation and may produce serious complications, including sepsis, osteomyelitis, cellulitis, amputation of the affected limb, renal failure, myocardial infarction and multi-organ failure.⁵

Heel ulcers are often hard-to-heal wounds and are associated with poorer outcomes, referring to patients' ambulation and their quality of life, when compared with tissue loss in other areas of the foot (i.e. fingers and metatarsal area).⁶⁻⁸ Heel PIs has been independently associated with increased risk of amputation, compared to all other foot ulcerations.⁹ Literature does not provide specific guidance on heel PIs management of stage I, II III, and the only available evidence, despite of poor quality, is on stage IV PIs and heel PIs related osteomyelitis.¹⁰

Stage IV PIs are an effect of direct pressure, but shear forces can determine capillary occlusion even if a low interface pressure is present.¹¹ Several papers suggest that heel PIs represent a more challenging clinical entity compared with other foot PIs, considering that the leg rehabilitation success is 2-3 times less likely when PIs involve



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the heel rather than the metatarsal area. Moreover, the estimated cost for calcaneus versus metatarsal ulceration is 1.5-times higher.¹²

Another area of interest is the pediatric and neonatal setting of PIs. Recent prevalence studies in this population show a rate between 0.47% - 27.7%¹³⁻¹⁹ and among them from 3.6% to 50% are heel ulceration.^{13-17,19-22} Furthermore, given the anatomical and physiological differences between adults and children, serious concerns arise about the use of adult protocols and products for the wound care of infants and children.²³ Further research is required to understand this phenomenon and to elaborate evidence-based guidelines that specifically address the pediatric population's needs.

To date, heel ulcers are rarely the focus of research and furthermore most research is focused on reducing the risk of PIs (i.e. prevention) rather than the treatment of active PIs.²⁴ The lack of a structured and standardized approach for the assessment and treatment of heel PIs and the large variety of treatments available highlight the need to address some clinical questions, following evidence-based indications.

Aims

According to the above-mentioned considerations, AISLeC has identified as a priority the need to develop best practice recommendations exploring six specific areas, including the diabetic and pediatric patient, on the assessment and management of heel pressure injuries, in order to support health care professionals and improve appropriateness.

AISLeC has identified the consensus conference's methodology as the most appropriate tool available to establish such recommendations, supported by the available scientific evidence. This consensus conference, based on a multidisciplinary and multiprofessional approach, will involve all stakeholders potentially interested in this issue, including patients and their families, institutions, companies with commercial interests and all health professionals.

The Consensus Conference took its first steps in Rome on May 27, 2017 with the first meeting of the Promoter Committee, which will schedule its next meetings in the second half of 2017, in order to carry out its organizational tasks. The Scientific Committee, the panel of international experts and working groups, which will be identified by the Promoter Committee, will be involved from winter 2017-2018 to the end of summer 2018, in order to complete the task assigned by the Promoter Committee.

The consensus conference final meeting will take place in autumn 2018 in order to make available the clinical recommendations within the last quarter of the same year or the first quarter of the next one.

The methodology adopted for the organization and management of the Consensus Conference is described in the methodological manual of the national system of guidelines of the National Institute of Health (available on http://www.snlg-iss.it/manuale_metodologico_consensus).



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Audience, stakeholders or invited guests

The invitation to attend the Consensus Conference is extended to all scientific societies and associations, healthcare companies, regional or National Health Service agencies, public and private research institutes, patient and consumer associations, pharmaceutical companies involved in the prevention and treatment of heel pressure injuries and to individual healthcare professionals and researchers, as well. Due to the limited availability of places, those interested in participating in the celebration of the meeting will be selected to a first come, first served basis.

Application procedure

The application procedure is available online on AISLeC's website (www.aislec.it). The Promoter Committee will directly contact several recipients to inform them about the details of the announcement. Those interested will be able to respond to the call by filling out a form to express their interest. They will also enclose the required documents and can declare their willingness to contribute to the financial support of the consensus conference.

Documentation and Time frame

In order to apply, it is necessary to send the declaration of interest attached to the notice. For companies and institutional agencies, it is required to enter the contact person's details and to subscribe the form by the legal representative with a stamp (or the name, surname and role of the company / institution). Forms submitted after the notice of expiration will not be accepted. The answer to the call for applications must be submitted by the 10th of March 2018.

What happens next?

The Promoter Committee and AISLeC will respond to the forms of interest within March 2018. Financial contributions will be made public through the AISLeC website, where the legal regulations for handling potential conflicts of interest, the definitions used in the stakeholder conference, the operating regulations and the protocol of the consensus meeting will be published.

Based on the applications, the working groups will be set up and the Scientific Committee and the Jury will be assembled. All information will be provided directly to interested parties who will be involved through the AISLeC website.

It should be underlined that participation in the Consensus Conference is subject to Promoter Committee approval.



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DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Name _____

Surname _____

Affiliation _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____ @ _____

The undersigned declares to be interested in:

- participate in the preparatory work of the CC
- participate in the celebration of the CC
- provide a financial contribution to the CC (please specify the amount of the contribution and any restrictions on its use)

How to send this form: only by e-mail to: segreteria@aislec.it

By completing this form, I authorize AISLEC to process my personal data in compliance with current legislation with the exclusive purposes related to the organization of the consensus conference in question.

I enclose a signed CV / company presentation form.

Place and date _____

Signature _____