



AISLeC

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



Milano, 5 February 2018

Oggetto: CONSENSUS CONFERENCE ON THE ASSESSEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF HEEL PRESSURE INJURIES

The Italian Nurses' Association for the Study of Wound Care (AISLeC), a non-profit association active since 1993 in the field of research and training in ulcers with different etiology, is pleased to announce the first International Consensus Conference on Assessment and Management of Heel pressure Injuries.

Reason for a Consensus Conference

"Consensus conferences are one of the tools available to achieve, through a formal process, an agreement between different health care professionals regarding particular controversial and complex health issues. Its purpose is to favor the choice of methods that are as uniform as possible in clinical practice with the aim to provide to patients the best quality of care in relation to available resources" (ISS Methodological Manual).

The intention of the consensus conference is to produce *evidence based* recommendations to assist practitioners and patients in the appropriate management of specific clinical situations. The formulation of recommendations is based on an evaluation of the best scientific evidence available on the subject of the conference, carried out through a review of the existing scientific literature.

Reason to study heel pressure injuries

Heel pressure Injuries (PIs) are the second most common site for pressure ulceration (PU) in adults, with a prevalence ranging from 7.3% to 18.2%, accounting for up to one third of all PIs, while recent epidemiological studies in pediatric and neonatal patients show a variable prevalence rate for PIs, ranging between 0.47% and 27.7%. Within these values, PIs located at the heel represent a variable percentage between 3.6% and 50%.

Despite the prevalence and the associated social and economic costs, PIs located at the heel are poorly studied. Research in this field is limited if compared to the implications for the patient. Until now there has been no structured and shared approach and the lack of homogeneity of the treatments poses clinical questions that need to be supported by research evidence.

Project priorities

AISLeC has prioritized the need to produce *evidence based* recommendations regarding Heel Pressure Injuries to support clinicians in the best practice and to improve the appropriateness of care, reducing associated costs, improving outcomes and ensuring that patient outcomes are achieved and furthermore the *Consensus Conference* has been chosen as the most suitable methodology, among those available, to identify, on the basis of available scientific evidence, these recommendations.



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The actors involved

This Consensus Conference, in the perspective of a multidisciplinary and multi-professional approach to this issues, will involve all the potentially interested stakeholders, patients and their families, institutions, companies with commercial interests and all health care professionals involved in the treatment of PIs.

The path and the referring target

The *Consensus Conference* will focus on the therapeutic/diagnostic path that affects the **adult, diabetic and pediatric/neonatal populations**.

For this purpose, AISLeC has promoted a collaboration with multidisciplinary specialists in the areas representing the specific studied populations.

The activity

The activities have been divided into a *preparatory phase* (May-December 2017) and in an *operational phase* (January-September 2018) that involve the scientific committee and the working groups in the elaboration of the recommendations.

The scientific committee and the working groups are being supported by external experts for the specific methodological aspects of this type of research.

The celebration of the conference, with the presentation of the recommendations, will be held during the next AISLeC National Congress, in November 2018.

The Consensus Conference took its first steps in Rome, on 27th May 2017, establishing the promoting committee, which worked on some preliminary aspects of the project, from June to September 2017.

Among the preliminary activities useful to provide some elements to formulate the questions, a survey has been prepared to know the professional opinions and to assess the knowledge on the diagnostic treatment of patients affected by Heel PIs.

All information related to the project of the Consensus Conference will be available in a dedicated area on the AISLeC website (www.aislec.it)

Supporting Consensus Conference

The organizing committee invites all stakeholders to support the work of the Consensus Conference, in the most appropriate way, in line with its own principles, compliance rules and internal company procedures. The scientific and organizational secretariat will be in charge of contacting the interested stakeholders.

Hoping to have grasped your interest, trusting in your lively participation and support to the project, on behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank you and to take this opportunity to extend my best regards.

Rosa Rita Zortea
President AISLeC