

Comparing 2-Layer With Traditional 4-Layer Compression Therapy

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Message:

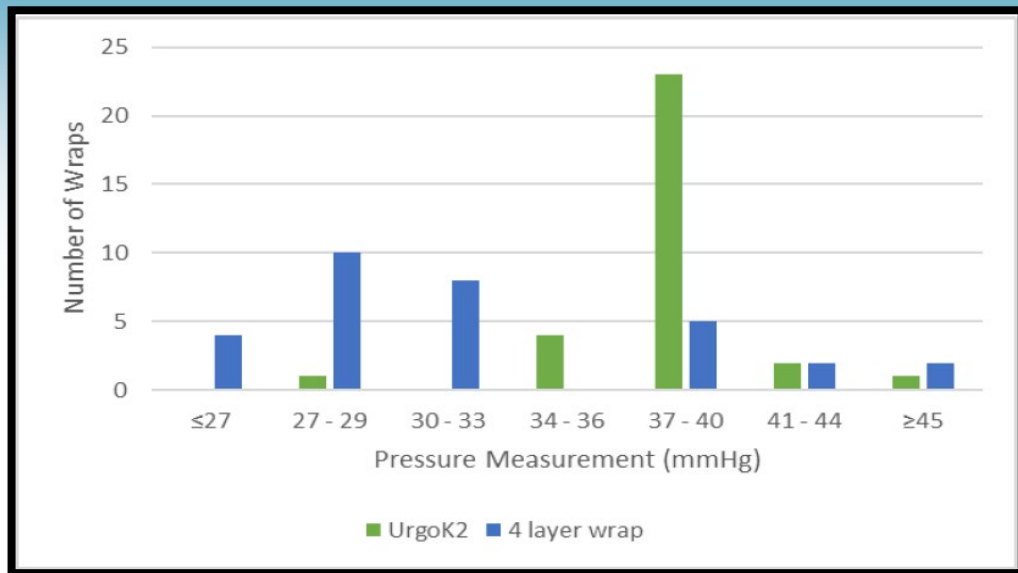
Compression systems are often four layered and time consuming to apply. Two layered systems offer convenience in both application and wear that are obvious. However, what matters most from a clinical perspective is the ability of a compression system to apply compression in the correct therapeutic range. This study shows that compared to a 4 layer bandage, not only does the 2 layer bandage is preferred by nurses and patients alike, but more importantly the 2 layer bandage provides the correct therapeutic pressure in a notably higher number of patients.

Methods:

53 patients with 62 leg ulcers were randomly treated with a 4 layer bandage, or the UroK2 Dual Compression System (DCS) such that each wrap treated 31 legs and wounds. A calibrated pressure monitor was used to measure the pressure that the legs were subjected to immediately post wrapping. Questionnaires were provided to the patients and the nurses to gather both patient and nurse experience with the bandage and the bandaging process respectively.

Results:

42% of patients receiving the 4 layer wrap achieved the correct therapeutic pressure (30-40 mm Hg) while a remarkable 87% of patients with the Dual Compression System were found to achieve the correct therapeutic pressure.



Comfort wise, 30 of the 43 patients surveyed found their experience to be better for the 2 layer product. All staff found the UrgoK2 product easier to apply compared to the 4 layer product. A majority of patient respondents (34/43) found the 2 layer product less sticky and less prone to snag in clothing and bedding. A majority of patient respondents also found the 2 layer product to be more absorbent, and thus needing less moisture wicking bulky wound dressings to manage wetness in the peri wound area.

Conclusion:

The engineering behind a compression system matters in terms of its ability to apply the correct therapeutic pressures on lower limb pathologies that require bandage wrapping. A 2 layer system (UrgoK2) was easier to apply and more comfortable to wear, compared to a 4 layer bandage wrap. Even more importantly the therapeutic pressure level was achieved for an overwhelming majority of the patients wrapped with the 2 layer bandage. This is likely the result of the right stretch being applied during wrapping which is easily aided by the visual “oval” guides printed on the bandage. Based on this study, the UrgoK2 bandage system is therapeutically superior, easier to apply, and more comfortable to wear compared to a traditional 4 layer bandage.



Authors' References:
Sycamore Wound Center, Kettering Health Network, Dayton, OH

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