

IMPACT OF CHRONIC WOUNDS ON QULITY OF LIFE

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Aim: The purpose of this paper is to present the results of a study conducted in order to measure the quality of life of patients with chronic wounds.

Methods: To measure the impact on quality of life we applied the Portuguese version of the Cardiff Wound Impact Schedule (CWIS) which assesses the quality of life of patients with chronic wounds. The dimensions measured by this instrument are 'physical symptoms and everyday living', 'social life', and 'well-being'. In the questionnaire we also included socio-demographic data and a visual analogue scales to measure the general perception of the quality of life (QOL), as well as the Portuguese version of the SF-6D, a preference-based instrument to measure quality of life through dimensions as physical function, role limitations, social functioning, pain, mental health and vitality.

Results: 56 patients with chronic wounds were approached in two health centres of the Central Region of Portugal. 44% of them were male and the mean age was about 65 years. In a 2-week test-retest, CWIS' dimensions scored reliability values between 0.972 (well-being) and 0.992 (social life) and an internal consistency between 0.805 (well-being) and 0.956 (physical symptoms and everyday living). The mean scores for CWIS were 40.68±23.17 (physical symptoms and everyday living), 36.22±22.67 (social life) and 57.26±23.55 (well-being). Comparing these results and those obtained by the SF-6D, we evidenced that CWIS' well-being is interpreted as lack of pain, physical symptoms and everyday living covers almost all SF-6D dimensions and social life is related to physical function, role limitations and social functioning.

Conclusions: CWIS may be implemented in clinical practice. Its use allows us to produce important indicators of the success of treatments, as well as to assess their impact in the perception of the quality of life of patients with leg ulcer.