

PATIENT BENEFIT INDEX - A NEW METHODOLOGY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT-DEFINED BENEFITS IN WOUND THERAPY

Nadine Franzke, Christine Reich, Ines Schaefer, Stephan Rustenbach, Matthias Augustin

CVderm, University Clinics of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Aim: The assessment of patient-relevant therapeutic benefits is crucial for reimbursement of drugs and medicinal products. This study aimed at the development, validation and clinical testing of a method of recording patient-defined benefits in wound therapy.

Methods: A collection of 83 items on benefits from the patients point of view was acquired by means of an open survey of n=50 patients with chronic wounds. The item pool was compiled to a 22-item questionnaire by an interdisciplinary team of experts with the assistance of patients. The questionnaire is used prior to therapy to record patient-defined preferences with respect to benefits (Patient Needs Questionnaire, PNQ) and after therapy to record the benefit attained (Patient Benefit Questionnaire, PBQ). A weighted Patient Benefit Index (PBI) is created over all items from the individually-selected therapy goals and the benefits assessed subsequently. The procedure was examined for validity and practical feasibility in a prospective study in n=172 patients with acute and chronic wounds undergoing topical negative pressure therapy (TNP).

Results: The questionnaire was well-accepted by the patients and rated relevant with respect to the disease. The patients selected a broad spectrum of possible therapeutic benefits at the start of the study. After TNP, the PBI revealed a high percentage (95.4%) of patients with demonstrable benefit. Cronbachs Alpha was 0.88 (PNQ). There was good construct validity in comparison with both disease-specific quality of life (QoL) and patient satisfaction.

Discussion: The PBI for wounds is a valid and reliable instrument which can be easily used in practice to record patient-defined benefits in the therapy of acute and chronic wounds. It provides relevant information in addition to the outcomes of disease-specific QoL questionnaires.