

**QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC LEG ULCERS**

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**Aim:** The aim of this preliminary study is to collect data about quality of life in leg ulcer patients.

**Methods:** A special questionnaire focused on quality of life of patients with chronic leg ulcers was developed. A questionnaire is divided in 6 parts, the questions are aimed at pain, physical, social and psychological impact, at daily activities and at aspects of treatment. 30 patients (8 men and 22 women) were included in the study, with mean age 68,0 years (range 47-87 years). Mean ulcer duration was 29,3 months (range 4-120 months).

**Results:** 97% reported ulcer pain. 26,2% of patients described the pain located in the wound bed, 13,6% reported pain in the area surrounding the wound. Most patients, 60,2%, reported pain both in the wound bed and in the surrounding area. 66% reported persistent pain, 19,5% reported pain with activity, 36% described pain at dressing change. Mean pain intensity score was 5,43 (using numerical rating scale). 43,7% reported sleep disturbances every night or very often. 74,9% of patients experienced moderate restrictions in leisure activities and 59,3% reported moderate restrictions in household duties. 44,6% reported partial or complete change in their clothing style (especially women). 38,9% had to change their shoes completely and 41,6% of patients changed their shoes partially. 80,6% reported certain social isolation caused by problems connected with their leg ulcer.

**Conclusions:** Leg ulcers can influence nearly every aspect of the patient's life. Therefore the care must be more intensively focused on quality of life.