

Editorial



As another year draws to an end, I'm sure we're all looking forward to some time away from work, with family and friends. Mental health, stress and burnout have been very topical and it is important to give ourselves (and our families) the timeout we deserve. This is particularly true of wound care practitioners, who are typically exceptionally busy and whose careers often encroach on family time.

Regarding our indexing process, this is still ongoing and this year we were included in the EBSCO database. This is in addition to the Google Scholar, Sabinet, African Journals Online (AJOL), Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and DHET databases, on which we are already indexed. We are waiting for word from SCOPUS and the Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ), and we are also currently being screened by Web of Science. We will also start the application with PubMed shortly. It's a process, but we are getting there slowly.

We have some interesting papers in this issue. There is an unusual report on Leishmaniasis, which presented as a case of chronic wounds. This article reminds us that our wound care practitioners need to be aware of unusual causes of chronic wounds and that biopsy and early referral to a doctor or, even better, a multidisciplinary team should always be considered for these cases. This article was chosen as our CPD article and three points are up for grabs for those of you who choose to answer the questions online.

Another very unusual case is reported on Mucormycosis, which can be deadly and in this case, it unfortunately was. As with the aforementioned

case, this case highlights the importance of rapidly obtaining the correct diagnosis and referring to a team, as this often affects the patient's outcome. Either of these cases could have presented in your wound clinic, so always be on your toes and have a high index of suspicion for unusual pathology when the wound is not behaving as expected.

Silver has enjoyed considerable popularity for some time, but another element that is gaining popularity in wound care is copper. Its mode of action in facilitating wound healing is multifactorial. Our colleagues from Israel and Poland have compiled a useful report that elaborates on this.

I'm pleased to see that our podiatry colleagues continue to support and submit articles to the journal. In this issue, they highlight why it is important to not only focus on the wound itself but the physical factors that caused it in the first place, which, if not addressed, will impede any attempts to get the wound to heal. The principle of mechanical offloading is not only important in wounds of the foot but in any type of wound caused by pressure.

Lastly, our plastic surgery colleagues in Pretoria conducted a study on a novel system which facilitates the use of conventional wall suction for negative-pressure wound therapy for hospitalised patients. Given the severe austerity measures that most state hospitals are facing, any innovation that could save costs in a safe and effective manner should be welcomed.

I hope that you have all booked some time off in December and that your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer. Sit back, relax and hopefully find some time to peruse this issue of WHSA!

Nick Kairinos

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