



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

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**Understanding patients' knowledge and behaviour in wound management**

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**Introduction**

Wound Care Clinic is established in General Outpatient Clinics (GOPCs) of Hong Kong West Cluster since 2009. The clinics are run by advanced practising nurses who are specialised in wound management. The purpose of this clinic is to provide patients comprehensive evaluation and treatment of various types of wound. Effective wound management with satisfactory outcome depends on patients' compliance and participation. However, we have encountered many patients who have managed their wound on their own according to various informal sources. The understanding of patients' knowledge and behaviour towards various self-care practices can provide crucial information to healthcare professionals on wound management and wound education.

**Objectives**

To explore patients' knowledge of and health seeking behaviour on wound care

**Methodology**

Patients attending the Wound Care Clinics at Kennedy Town GOPC and Aberdeen GOPC between November and December 2013 were asked to fill in a standardized questionnaire.

**Result**

Twenty-six male patients and twenty-four female patients completed the questionnaire during the study period. Among them, 14% were aged between 20 and less than 40, 38% between 40 and 65, and 48% over 65. 68% of them reached secondary education level or above while 14% had no schooling before. Over 65% of them had chronic diseases. Thirty-two (64%) reported to have self-managed wound before and knew how to manage wound in general. Their source of knowledge included from healthcare professionals (20%), pharmacy sales (12%) and media (10%), a few from books and internet. Thirty-four of them (68%) had self-managed their wound just prior to the current visit and among them half used anti-septic solution and a few used alcohol, water or medicated cream. Twelve patients (24%) attended the Emergency Department (ED), seven (14%) attended the GOPC and six (12%) went to see a private doctor. Most had some sort of knowledge and experience regarding wound

care management. Most perceived that their wound was a minor problem and that they had the ability to manage on their own using methods according to their health belief and knowledge. It was often not until the wound deteriorated would they seek medical advice. The understanding of such self-care practice is significant for healthcare professionals in planning appropriate and culturally-orientated wound education and in empowering them on self-management thus reducing risk of wound deterioration and complications which otherwise increase healthcare burden.