



11-2023

schülke Scientific Newsletter Volume 6

Greetings dear readers!

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we embrace a new edition, our commitment to keeping you informed remains unwavering.

In this instalment, we're excited to share the latest publications, highlights from recent events, and an exploration of schülke's global footprints, all crafted to deepen your connection with our activities, whether they be around or within your country..

Exploring Schülke's Global Footprints: Embark on a journey with us as we reflect on schülke's presence and impact on a global scale. From innovative initiatives to collaborative ventures, discover how our footprint extends beyond borders, influencing positive change.

Latest Publications: Dive into our most recent publications, where we unpack industry insights, share expert opinions, and explore emerging trends. Stay at the forefront of knowledge with articles tailored to keep you ahead in your field.

Events We Participated In: Get a front-row seat to the events that shaped our recent experiences. Whether it's conferences, webinars, or community engagements, we're excited to share the highlights and key takeaways.

Your Feedback Matters: We value your insights and opinions. Your feedback shapes the content we curate. Feel free to reach out with your thoughts, suggestions, or topics you'd like us to explore further.

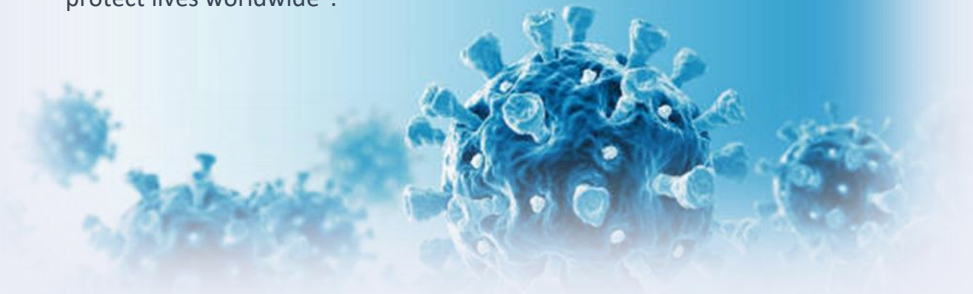
Thank you for being a vital part of our community. As we continue to evolve, we're thrilled to have you alongside us.

Dr. Thomas Oh (schülke Asia)
Ms. Nicola Thurston (schülke UK)



In This Week's Highlights:

- Use of Wound Antiseptics in Practice:** This is a lighthouse project from the global Medical Affairs team to support best practice in antiseptic usage as well as promote the integrity and accurate reporting of the scientific knowledge surrounding wound care - octenidine, in particular.
- Our team has been on the move,** participating in scientific conferences in countries such as Switzerland, Malaysia, Poland, and Germany. These events serve as invaluable platforms for us to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field of infection prevention. By fostering international collaborations, we aim to bring a global perspective to our mission of "We protect lives worldwide".



Antiseptic consensus

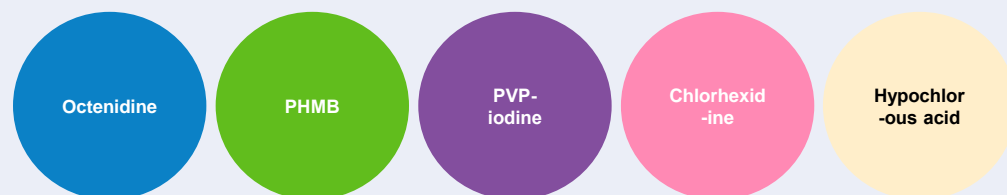
The month of October marked the launch of the International Consensus Document on the 'Use of Wound Antiseptics in Practice'

Unique to other consensus documents, this publication focus specifically on wound antiseptics.

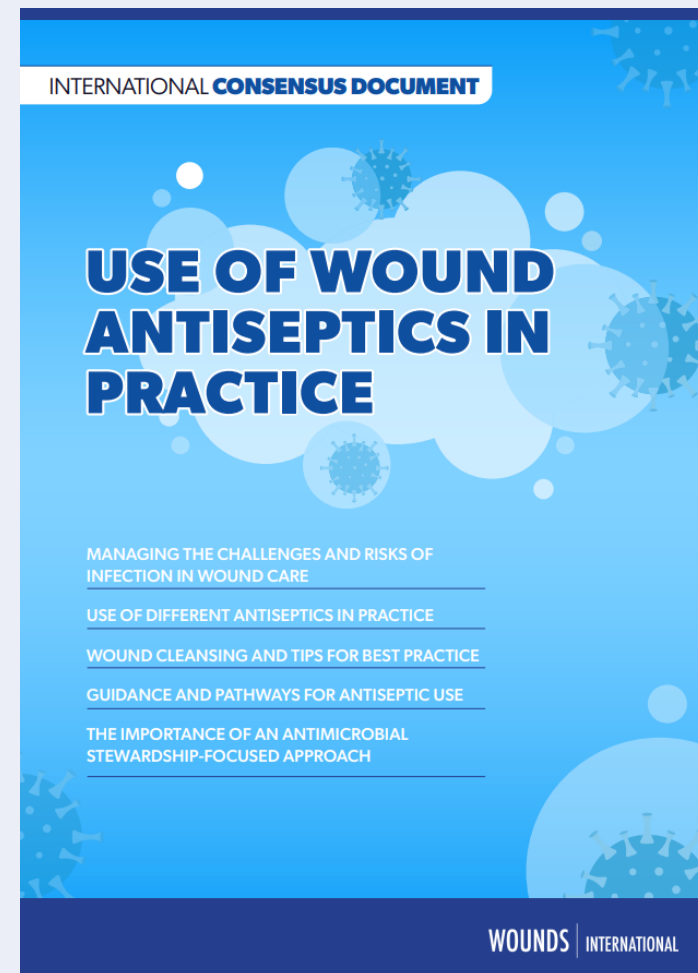
The consensus document aims to address:

- The challenges and risks of infection in wound care
- Consider experiences and practice around the world
- Provide an overview of the different antiseptics used in practice
- Guidance on the use of antiseptics in practice
- Reaffirm the importance of an antimicrobial stewardship-focus approach

Key antiseptics/molecules cover:



Link: [Use of wound antiseptics in practice - Wounds International](#)



The 7th ICPIC 2023 – international conference for infection prevention and control

From 12 to 15 September 2023, the 7th international conference on infection prevention and control (ICPIC) took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ICPIC is a leading conference and international forum for the exchange of current research & innovation and global practices in the field of infection prevention and control. Additionally, its main research focus evolves around the control of antimicrobial resistance around the world.

This year's ICPIC hosted more than 200 invited speakers, 400 scientific poster presentations and 55 exciting sessions for a global audience.

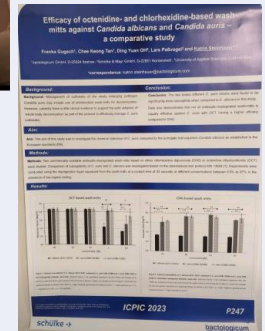
schülke once again participated with a team of experts and a successful symposium on the topic "Are we prepared for future challenges in infection prevention and control?". Five internationally renowned experts from Germany, Poland, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland shared their expertise on this topic in front of a full auditorium with almost 220 participants.

The feedback on the symposium was positive: "The presentations were very engaging, and the symposium had a good selection of speakers."

schülke also participated with a poster presentation and new research findings on *Candida auris*, one of the globally emerging pathogens: "Comparison of antimicrobial susceptibility of *Candida albicans* versus *Candida auris* to octenidine- and chlorhexidine-based wash mitts commonly used in healthcare"

At our schülke booth, our team welcomed visitors from all over the world, including Cameroon, Nigeria, Finland, Norway, Slovakia, Qatar, the United Emirates, India and Singapore. There was strong interest in our product portfolio and discussions at the booth evolved around topics such as skin decolonization with our octenisan® wash mitts, skin disinfection for neonates, wound treatment with our octeni-range, hand disinfection with desderman® care, surface disinfection with our mikrozyd® universal wipes and, local distributors.

- Katharina KAPOOR





Congresses & Events (APAC)

D-Foot International & 5th Global Wound Conference 2023

In October 2023, we attended the 5th Global Wound Conference in Malaysia. Taking place at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, this conference can be considered the largest in Asia Pacific.

The conference hosted over 90 exhibitors with more than 1000 on-site attendees and 5000 online delegates.

Together with our trusted partners, we were represented with a well-visited booth in the exhibition area and a scientific symposium, where Prof. Dr. Ojan Assadian (Regional Hospital Wiener Neustadt, Vienna, Austria) live-stream from Austria to share with the audience an insightful talk titled, “Antiseptic – An update”. The talk was attended by more than 120 participants (the best attended symposium among the 3 concurrent sessions) – a sentiment to the credentials of Prof. Dr. Ojan Assadian and the topic on antiseptic.

Beside the scientific symposium, we are also represented by a clinical case study

poster titled, “Use of octenidine dihydrochloride in managing chronic wounds – a case series”, a collaboration with Prof. Harikrishna Nair to look into the clinical efficacy of octenidine-based products on the management of chronic wounds, such as diabetic foot ulcers and Venous Leg ulcers.

- Thomas OH



Use of octenidine dihydrochloride in managing Chronic wounds - A CASE SERIES

Prof. Dr. Dr. Harikrishna KP Nair^{1,2}
Siti Aishah Kamis¹
Nor Asmi Bin Mohamad Kamal¹
Angeline Eruthayaraj¹

4 cases

Diabetic foot ulcers Venous leg ulcers

Location: Wound care clinic, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Selection criteria: The patients were recruited on the criteria that their wound condition did not improve after 4 week of the initial standard of care. Used TIME assessment, HSPC & visual analog scale on patients.¹

Objectives To determine the efficacy, safety and tolerability of octenidine dihydrochloride on chronic wounds

Results

Case	Diabetic foot ulcers	Venous leg ulcers
Case 1	<p>Mr AA, 68-year-old male, with an infected left big toe diabetic foot ulcer</p> <p>Antibiotic treatment: 570 mg linezolid</p> <p>Treatment before octenidine: hydrogel application</p> <p>Treatment: Octenidine® wound irrigation solution (debridement), Octenidine® gel, Octenidine® repair cream for periwound. No extra interventions were made.</p> <p>Week 1: 100% wound size reduction</p> <p>Week 10: 100% wound size reduction</p> <p>Size: 5.0 cm L x 2.0 cm W Pain score: 1/10 HSPC: Class 2B</p>	<p>Mr AA, 62-year-old male, with a left venous leg ulcer</p> <p>Antibiotic treatment: Nil</p> <p>Treatment before octenidine: hydrogel application</p> <p>Treatment: Octenidine® antiseptic cleansing solution (debridement), Octenidine® gel, Octenidine® repair cream for periwound. Compression bandages was also used.</p> <p>Week 1: 12.6% wound size reduction</p> <p>Week 12: 12.6% wound size reduction</p> <p>Size: 9.5 cm L x 6.5 cm W Pain score: 1/10 HSPC: Class 2B</p>
Case 2	<p>Mr BB, 64-year-old male, with a right diabetic foot ulcer</p> <p>Antibiotic treatment: 570 mg linezolid</p> <p>Treatment before octenidine: hydrogel application</p> <p>Treatment: Octenidine® wound irrigation solution (debridement), Octenidine® gel, Octenidine® repair cream for periwound. No extra interventions were made.</p> <p>Week 1: 64.7% wound size reduction</p> <p>Week 13: 64.7% wound size reduction</p> <p>Size: 10 cm L x 8.5 cm W Pain score: 1/10 HSPC: Class 4</p>	<p>Mr CC, 50-year-old male, with a left leg venous ulcer</p> <p>Antibiotic treatment: Nil</p> <p>Treatment before octenidine: hydrogel application</p> <p>Treatment: Octenidine® antiseptic cleansing solution (debridement), Octenidine® gel, Octenidine® repair cream for periwound. No extra interventions were made.</p> <p>Week 1: 5.3% wound size reduction</p> <p>Week 12: 5.3% wound size reduction</p> <p>Size: 9.5 cm L x 6.5 cm W Pain score: 1/10 HSPC: Class 2B</p>

Conclusion This case study series demonstrate the clinical efficacy, tolerance, and safety of using octenidine-based products to promote wound healing in chronic wounds.

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Congresses & Events (FLR - POLAND)

FORUM LECZENIA RAN 2023 (WOUND TREATMENT FORUM 2023) – ZAKOPANE - POLAND

On September 21-23, Schulke Poland participated in the 6th [Wound Treatment Forum in Zakopane](#) - one of the largest conferences dedicated to wound management. The congress attracted over 1000 participants.

One of the topics discussed during the Forum was the problem of increasing bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Valuable discussions and presentations were, as always, a significant part of the conference - including those prepared by the experts who had been invited by Schulke Polska to give a lecture: [Professor Dr. Tomasz Karpiński from the Medical University of Poznań](#) and [Sylwia Rogowska, M.A.](#) Both speakers tried to clearly indicate the possible solutions that medical professionals should consider to counteract the spread of antibiotic resistance.

During the joint lecture of [S. Rogowska \(M.A./wound treatment specialist\)](#) and [Professor Dr. Karpiński](#), the results of [in vitro tests of antimicrobial substances' efficacy](#) were presented, including: [octenidine](#), [PHMB](#), [hypochlorites](#) and [PVP-I](#). [Octenidine](#) proved its high efficacy in all

the tests that had been performed by [Professor Dr. T. Karpiński](#). Practical implications of these results were commented and [octenidine products](#) were shown as a reasonable and recommendable choice in wound treatment based on the concept of [Wound Hygiene](#).

[Zuzanna Konrady, M.A.](#) - the new President of the [Scientific Association of Wound Treatment](#) replied to Schulke's invitation and prepared a [workshop dedicated to the care of immobile patients and MDRO decolonization](#). The workshop was welcomed with great interest among the participants of the conference. Experience Based Medicine was here the basic justification for the use of [octenisan & esemtan products](#) range as the immobile patient care and MDRO decolonization procedure was presented by a real practitioner, a person with many years of experience.



Congresses & Events (BZH - GERMANY)

Freiburg infectiology and hygiene congress 2023

The Freiburg Infectious Diseases and Hygiene Congress 2023 was held this year from October 11 to 13 under the patronage of German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach. The most important hygiene congress in southern Germany is hosted annually by the German Advisory Center for Hygiene (BZH) and was opened this year with a personal message of greeting from the Director General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom.

The congress attracted about 1100 hygienists and other healthcare professionals from Germany and neighboring countries.

Schülke was present on the BZH congress this year as platinum sponsor. At any time, there were lively discussions and advice of interested hygienists and other healthcare professionals around the existing product portfolio but also about new products like the gigasept® powerTRIO at the schülke booth.

Since the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has subsided, a decrease in the use of hand

disinfectants has been observed in German hospitals. This alarming development was discussed lively at the congress and we also contributed to the discussion of this hot topic with our lunch symposium. The guests in the packed room were first welcomed by Dr. Pascal Bartling and prepared for the topic by the presentation of the latest figures on hand disinfectant use and compliance observations.

Dr. Weitzel-Kage from the Alexian Clinics in Berlin then presented the pros and cons of single-use medical gloves and sent a clear message that single-use gloves do not replace hand disinfection and that their use should be questioned more often in everyday clinical practice.

Last but not least, Wolfgang Merkens provided the psychological aspects that can explain why, contrary to better knowledge, compliance with hand hygiene shows a decreasing trend.

-Pascal BARTLING



Dr. Pascal Bartling



Dr. Doris Weitzel-Kage



Wolfgang Merkens



Congresses & Events (UK)

Infection Prevention Society Conference 2023

In October 2023, we attended the Infection Prevention Society conference & exhibition. The conference was held on 17th to 19th October at the ACC, Liverpool.

The ACC in Liverpool is in a stunning waterfront location and features Europe's only interconnected arena, conference and exhibition centres. In addition, world-class facilities and cutting-edge design helped create the ideal space for IP2023 in this vibrant and inspirational city.

The conference saw more than **500 on-site delegates** enjoy a packed scientific agenda delivered by UK and international world-class speakers. In addition, there was an exhibition hall with **over 60 exhibitors**.

The themes this year were critical to the IPC agenda and include Antimicrobial Resistance, Preparedness and Environment.

schülke also participated with a poster

presentation and a new study introducing "A novel approach to management of simulated blood and body fluid spillages in clinical settings".

The aim of this study was to explore the practical useability of BIOPERL+ bio-hazard spill kit, a new to market wide-spectrum biocidal absorbent based on a natural mineral, with that of an incumbent spill kit system currently used in healthcare and other settings using simulated bodily fluids

At our schülke booth, there was a lot of interest from very engaged delegates and our team had good discussions about our product portfolio, specifically on topics such as MDRO decontamination with octenisan®, sustainability and material compatibility with our mikrozid® universal green line wipes and reduced complexity when dealing with biohazard spills with the Bioperl® spill kit.



Congresses & Events (SERBIA)

1st Hot Topics Europaediatrics

From 5th to 8th October, 1st Hot Topics Europaediatrics, one-of-a-kind joint meeting of the European Pediatric Association - Union of National European Pediatric Societies and Associations, ARS EPA-UNEPSA and Pediatric Association of Serbia, **was held in Belgrade**. Joint meeting has had two leading figures as co-presidents: **Professor dr Massimo Pettoello-Mantovani**, President of EPA-UNEPSA and of ARS EPA-UNEPSA, and **Professor dr Georgios Konstantinidis**, President of the Pediatric Association of Serbia.

Among many notable speakers, the audience had a chance to hear a lecture held by **Professor dr Djordje Kravljanac, paediatric surgeon**.

Professor Kravljanac is a director of the **Clinic for paediatric surgery at Institute for mother and child healthcare of Serbia**, which is thought to be a leading institution, not only in Serbia but also in broader region.

More specifically, his hands-on surgical procedures are mainly done in the **Department for burns, plastic and reconstructive surgery**.

By using many vivid examples from his vast and fruitful experience, Professor Kravljanac has thoroughly explained how is **schülke's octenidine-based treatment beneficial** for his everyday clinical practice and care for the youngest patients.

- Danilo Karadžić





Publication corner

“The use of octenidine dihydrochloride in managing chronic wound: a case series”

New Guideline: "Rituals and behaviours in the operating theatre – joint guidelines of the Healthcare Infection Society and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases"

Products & technology

Use of octenidine dihydrochloride in managing chronic wounds: a case series



This case series reports on the effectiveness of octenidine dihydrochloride (octenidine) to promote wound healing in chronic, hard-to-heal wounds. We present the results of four randomly recruited patients, two with venous leg ulcer and two with a diabetic foot ulcer (DFU). All of the patients' wounds were cleansed with octenidine-based solutions. The patients were assessed using the TIME (Tissue, Infection or Inflammation, Moisture balance and Edges of the wound or Epithelial advancement) assessment tool, the Harikrishna Periwound Skin Classification (HPSC) and visual analog scale for pain. All the wounds were HPSC Class 2 and Class 4 and both DFUs are were infected. Our results demonstrated that octenidine was effective in promoting wound healing for chronic, hard-to-heal wounds with no reported side-effects.

Key words:

- Antisepsis
- Chronic
- Diabetes
- Infection
- Wound

Harikrishna H. Nair, Professor and Head of the Wound Care Unit, Department of General Medicine, Department of General Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Dr. Nair** is a Consultant in Wound Care Unit, Department of General Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Dr. Nair** is a Consultant in Wound Care Unit, Department of General Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Dr. Nair** is a Consultant in Wound Care Unit, Department of General Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Dr. Nair** is a Consultant in Wound Care Unit, Department of General Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Methodology
This case series reports on the effectiveness of octenidine dihydrochloride (octenidine) to promote wound healing in chronic, hard-to-heal wounds. We present the results of four randomly recruited patients, two with venous leg ulcer and two with a diabetic foot ulcer (DFU). All of the patients' wounds were cleansed with octenidine-based solutions. The patients were assessed using the TIME (Tissue, Infection or Inflammation, Moisture balance and Edges of the wound or Epithelial advancement) assessment tool, the Harikrishna Periwound Skin Classification (HPSC) and visual analog scale for pain. All the wounds were HPSC Class 2 and Class 4 and both DFUs are were infected. Our results demonstrated that octenidine was effective in promoting wound healing for chronic, hard-to-heal wounds with no reported side-effects.

This case series reports on the effectiveness of octenidine dihydrochloride (octenidine) to promote wound healing in chronic, hard-to-heal wounds. The authors presented the results of four randomly recruited patients, two with Venous leg ulcer and two with a diabetic foot ulcer (DFU). All of the patients' wounds were cleansed with octenidine-based solutions with periwound managed by **octenicare repair crème**. The patients were assessed using the TIME (Tissue, Infection or Inflammation, Moisture balance and Edges of the wound or Epithelial advancement) assessment tool, the Harikrishna Periwound Skin Classification (HPSC) and visual analog scale for pain. All the wounds were HPSC Class 2 and Class 4 and both DFUs were infected. Our results demonstrated that octenidine is effective in promoting wound healing for chronic, hard-to-heal wounds with no reported side-effects.

Prevention of surgical site infection (SSI) remains a main priority in operating theatres. New updated guidelines, produced in collaboration between the Healthcare Infection Society and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, used methodology accredited by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to provide further advice on different practices. The guidelines are intended for an international audience. Specifically, they discuss the current available evidence for different rituals that are commonplace in the operating theatre, and highlight the gaps in knowledge with recommendations for future research.

In the chapter "Preparation before surgery", the following question is asked: "What is the clinical effectiveness of pre-operative showering/bathing before elective surgical procedures using (a) non-disinfectant bath/shower and (b) disinfectant bath/shower?"

The Working Party agreed that despite the lack of evidence for or against showering or bathing before surgery, this practice should be encouraged whenever possible as "Good practice". This is consistent with current practice, where hospitals ask elective patients to shower/bath the night before or on the day of surgery, and it is customary for most people to wash themselves for personal hygiene reasons.

Humphreys H. et al. Rituals and behaviours in the operating theatre - joint guidelines of the Healthcare Infection Society and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. *J Hosp Infect.* 2023;140:165.e1-165.e28

The original article is available at <https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/>

Nair et al., 2023
[Link](#)



This case series demonstrated that octenidine-based products remains an ideal choice when it comes to hard-to-heal wounds. The combination of proper wound cleansing with proper moisture and periwound management promotes the recovery of previously hard-to-heal chronic wound cases.



Publication corner

“Skin tone in the management of incontinence-associated dermatitis”

The Complex Wound Clinic (CWC) at Central and North West London (CNWL) NHS Foundation Trust provides wound assessment and management to help improve chronic wound healing rates. The specialist team assist other clinicians in the care of patients with complex wounds, providing the expert support required to deliver the most appropriate management.

This discussion article and case series reports on the challenges of dealing with the increasing number of patients being referred with moisture associated skin damage (MASD), where early diagnosis and treatment is key to successful management.

In the author’s experience, “skin changes in people with dark skin tones are not always recognised quickly enough, and it may take longer to make an accurate diagnosis and administer optimum care.”

The author presented the results of three patients who were referred to the CWC with chronic and/or non-healing skin lesions as a result of MASD. As part of the management bundle, octenidine based wash mitts were used for cleaning the intact skin in the periwound areas to; manage skin irritation, reduce malodour and remove any contaminants and bioburden.

All three patients were successfully discharged within 4-12 weeks, after which no further visits to the clinic were required.



This case series demonstrated that octenidine based products are easy to use, well accepted by both clinicians and patients and can play a significant role in helping to restore patient dignity and quality of life, particularly with patients being taught to self-care.

GPN: Health promotion: assessing skin tone and IAD

Skin tone in the management of incontinence-associated dermatitis

Moisture-associated skin damage (MASD) is an umbrella term to describe the trauma that occurs when there is prolonged exposure to moisture. Incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD) is an MASD condition caused by urinary and/or faecal incontinence. It often causes significant pain and has a negative impact on an individual's quality of life. Prompt diagnosis of IAD is key to successful management, but the early symptoms of erythema and redness may not be obvious in those with a dark skin tone. Delays in assessment and treatment mean that maceration, infection and the development of pressure ulcers become more of a risk. This is compounded by the lack of education and awareness of the significance of skin tone in relation to wound care. This article is based on published research, together with the practical experience of healthcare professionals at the Complex Wound Clinic, CNWL in North West London. The aim is to highlight the importance of considering skin tone when managing IAD. This can be achieved by using a validated skin tone assessment tool which shows a range of six skin tones. The importance of skin tone is a critical subject as the latest 2021 Census data shows that in England and Wales, 18% belong to a black, Asian, mixed or other ethnic group (Gov.UK, 2021 Census data).

KEY WORDS:

- Skin tone
- Incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD)
- Assessment
- Management

Luxmi Dhoonmoon
Nurse consultant (wound, visibility), London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

THE COMPLEX WOUND CLINIC

The Complex Wound Clinic (CWC) at Central and North West London (CNWL) NHS Foundation Trust provides wound assessment and management to help improve chronic wound healing rates.

The specialist team assist other clinicians in the care of patients with complex wounds, providing the expert support required to deliver the most appropriate management. The service is provided in the community, in patients' homes (including nursing homes) and in clinics. Since the Covid pandemic, an increasing number of patients are being referred with moisture-associated skin damage (MASD), mostly due to incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD). Many patients have had little or no previous contact with healthcare services; preferring to keep their continence problems 'in the family'.

THE SKIN

The skin is the largest organ of the body, providing a protective barrier against pathogens. It also protects internal tissues and organs from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation, chemical irritants, temperature, toxins, and mechanical injuries (Lopez-Ojeda et al., 2022). To maintain this protective function, skin integrity is essential. When the skin is exposed to excess moisture, it becomes prone to maceration and breakdown (Green et al., 2022). This may lead to the development of complex problems, including pressure ulceration, MASD, skin tears and infections (Waller and Cole, 2023).

MOISTURE-ASSOCIATED SKIN DAMAGE (MASD)

MASD is caused by prolonged exposure of the skin to moisture. This compromises the protective function of the skin, causing it to become more susceptible to penetration by microorganisms, as well as mechanical damage from shear and friction (Gray et al., 2011).

MASD can be aggravated by chemical irritants, proteolytic and lipolytic enzymes and an alteration in the skin pH (Young, 2017), all of which have the capacity to compromise the barrier function. Damage can range from superficial erythema to extensive skin breakdown and may be complicated by bacterial and fungal infections (Young, 2017). It is more frequently seen in older skin, which is more fragile and susceptible to breakdown. With increasing age, epidermal turnover becomes slower, there are fewer sweat glands and sebum production is reduced (Young, 2017).

Additional risk factors for skin breakdown, include:

- Obesity
- Limited mobility

?? GPN 2023, Vol 8, No 3

Luxmi Dhoonmoon, 2023 [Link](#)

