

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO COMMUNITY WOUND CARE CLINICS IN CAVAN/MONAGHAN PRIMARY CARE

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of MDT approach of an individualised nursing and dietary assessment to the service users while attending the community nursing service for wound care management clinics.

AIMS

To investigate if an integrated approach by the Community Registered Nurse(CRGN) attending to wound care and the Community Dietitian(CD) would have a positive impact on wound healing.

METHODS

An audit was conducted on 23 service users health care records from a multidisciplinary wound care service established in March 2021. Service users with chronic wounds consented to receiving input from both CRGN and dietitian via: Joint CRGN/CD monthly clinics where service users received dietetic assessment/advice during dressing changes. CRGN changed dressings up to three times per week in the primary care clinics or home visits where dietetic advice was also reiterated by the CRGN. Progress of all service users was discussed as part of the joint wound care monthly clinic.

BACKGROUND

Community Registered General Nurse (CRGN) noted a large number of service users with chronic wounds required input from the dietitian. Following referrals and several collaborative meetings between the CRGN and Community Dietitian (CD), it was agreed to run a joint wound care/dietitian clinic. The impact of the collaborative approach showed prompt results. Service users were motivated by this integrated approach, were eager to cooperate and followed the wound health promotion and dietary advice given by CRGN at each wound dressing clinic. The dietary advice and health promotion was reiterated at each follow up wound dressing clinic by the CRGN. This empowered the service users to engage with the client centred approach which aided wound healing.

INITIATIVE



Good Practice Point

A referral to a registered Dietitian should be sent if the service user is identified as at risk of malnutrition and/or experiencing delayed wound healing.

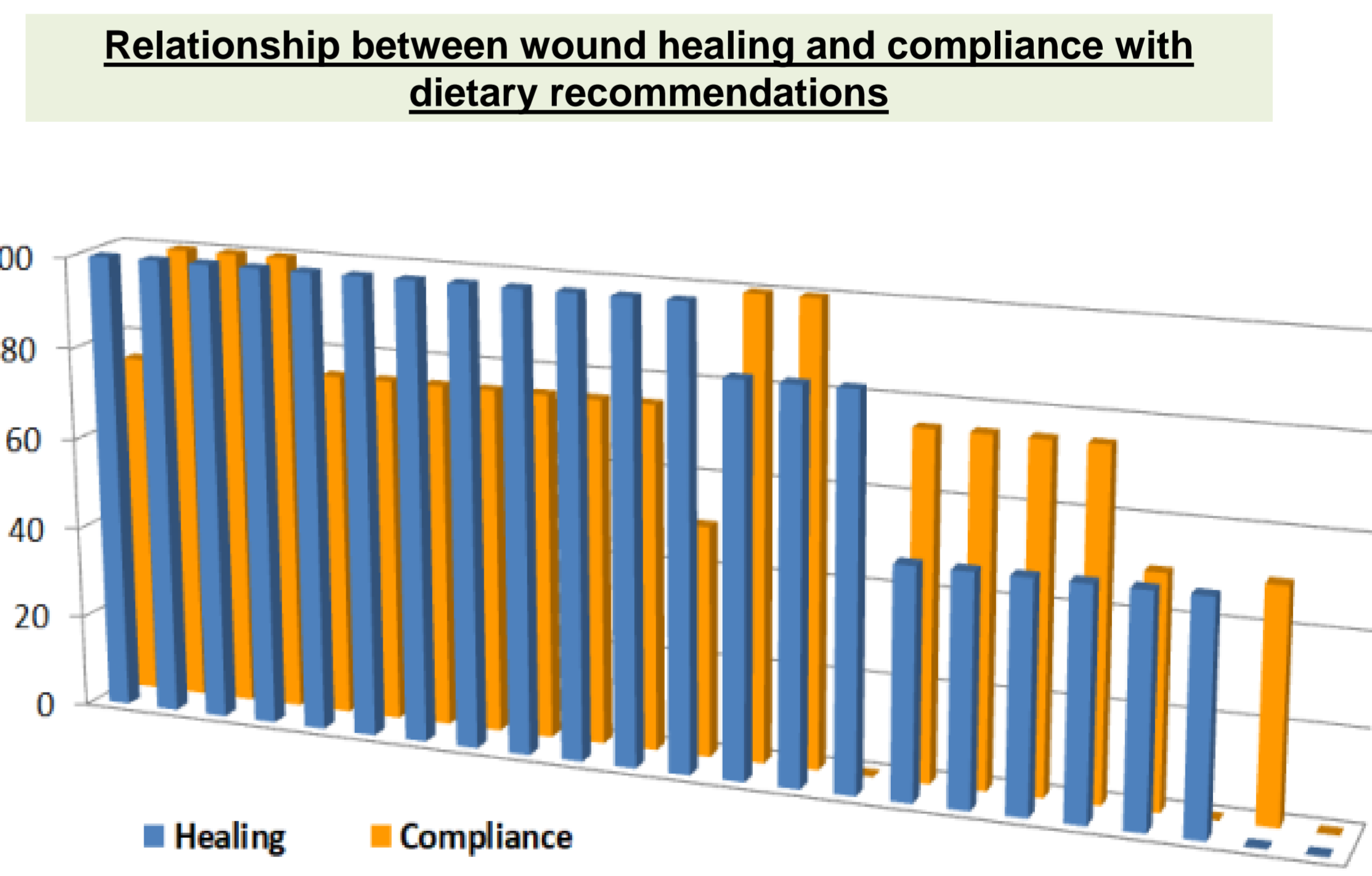
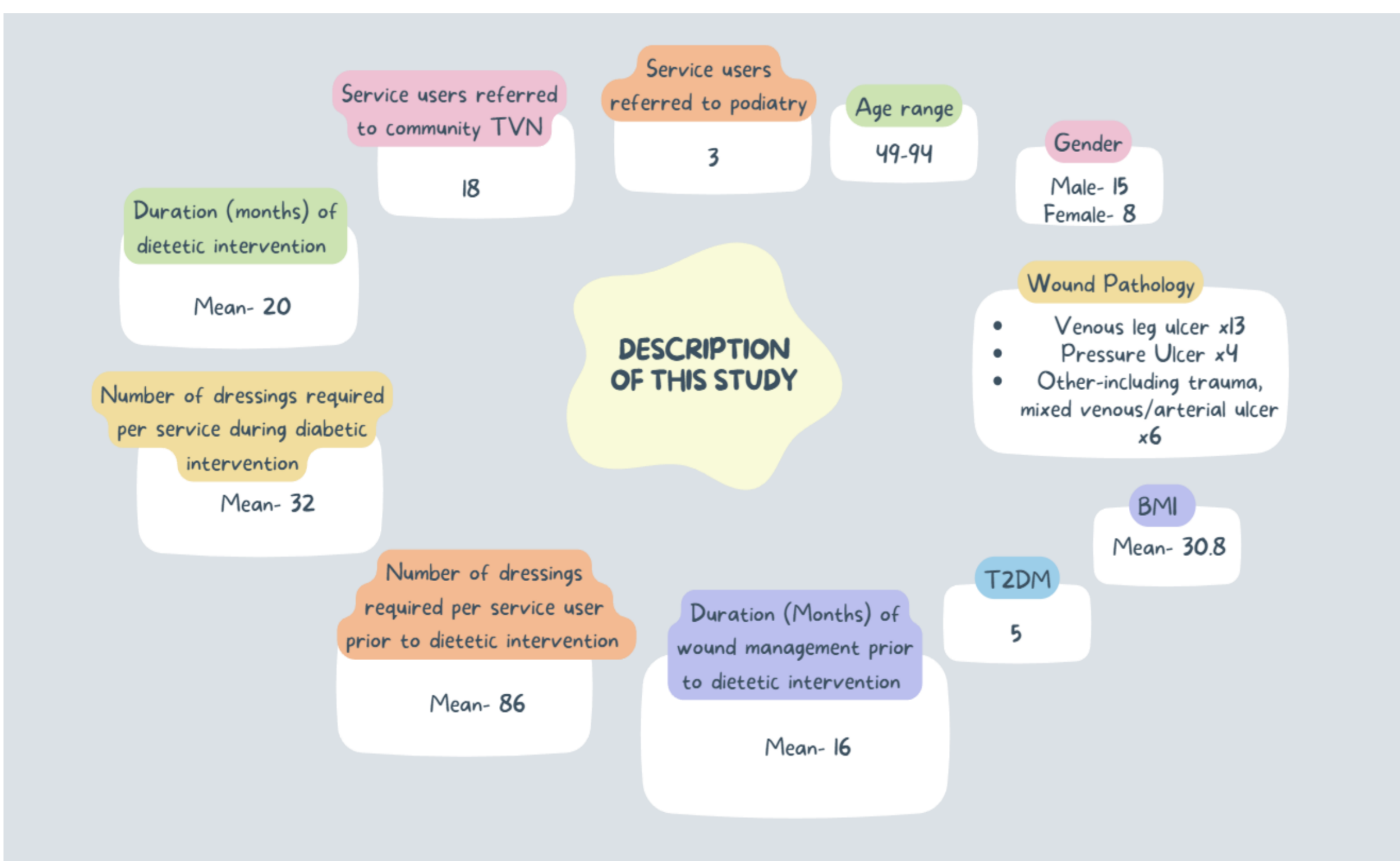
Evidence statement

There is a large body of evidence demonstrating the essential role of nutrition in wound healing.

(PG 43 HSE National Wound Management Guidelines 2018)

The Role of Nutrition for Pressure Injury Prevention and Healing: The 2019 International Clinical practice Guidelines Recommendations. Munoz et al (2019)

RESULTS



Images of wounds before and after input of multidisciplinary approach



(A) Service user, 76 years. Venous leg ulcer. Image is date from November 2020 to November 2021.



(B) Service user, 59 years. Mixed venous arterial leg ulcer Images dated from March 2021 to August 2021

CONCLUSION

A multidisciplinary integrated approach to wound care, including individualised dietetic assessment and advice, achieved positive healing outcomes in two thirds of service users included in this pilot. The study showed 63% reduction in the number of dressings required. During the nine month pilot, significant improvement was observed in five service users with chronic wounds requiring dressings for in excess of two years. Two service users achieved full healing and 50% healing was observed in three service users. This pilot study highlights the benefits of multidisciplinary collaboration in all community care clinics, prioritising those service users with non-healing wounds to deliver significant cost efficiencies and improved service user outcomes. This pilot indicates the need for further research in this area involving a more extensive sample.