

H&R Healthcare are very pleased to advise you that NICE have published their guidance on MIST Ultrasound Therapy System stating *“The MIST Therapy system shows potential to enhance the healing of chronic, ‘hard-to-heal’, complex wounds, compared with standard methods of wound management.”*

Clinical evidence and cost effectiveness data was presented to NICE and from the 199 papers they cite 2 RCTs and 8 peer reviewed articles. The full guidance document may be downloaded from <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/MTG5>.

The RCTs shows statistical significance with twice the healing in half the time in non-healing wounds which has been reflected by recent UK trials.

- An RCT looking at diabetic foot ulcers was undertaken by Ennis et al (1995) where 40.7% of the patients in the MIST Therapy group achieved complete wound closure (p=0.036) in 12 weeks compared to the control group of 14.3%. It must be noted that NICE did not state the figures published by the author and instead reviewed intention to treat rather than the “evaluable” patient group.
- An RCT looking at non-healing foot ulcers with chronic critical ischemia was undertaken by Kavros et al (2007) where 63% (p=0.001) of wounds achieved greater than 50% closure in 12 weeks vs. 29% in the control group.
- A recently published meta-Analysis of 8 peer reviewed papers reported on 444 patients treated with MIST Therapy; there was an 85.2% reduction in wound area in 7 weeks, with the mean time to heal of 8.2 weeks. Driver, V. Wound Repair and Regeneration, July/August 2011.

The NICE committee recognised that the quality of evidence in the area of wound care is generally low and chronic wounds pose a challenge stating the evidence for *“the MIST Therapy System was equal to or better than evidence for many other wound care interventions in current use”* and *“wished to give strong encouragement to further research the use of MIST Therapy system”*.

The guidance document notes *“exclusion from the cost model of amputation and other procedures with substantial long-term cost implications meant that cost savings of the MIST Therapy system were potentially underestimated”*. A meeting report available on www.hrhealthcare.co.uk shows potentially significant savings over and above those cited within the NICE guidance. Ray Norris (UK) estimating a saving of over £37,000 where a patient with a 5 year ulcer was healed in 18 treatments and Dr Vicky Driver (USA) studies show a saving of \$2m+ for every 1,000 patients treated for 12 weeks.

The Committee also noted that patients reported a *“reduction in pain and an improvement in health following MIST Therapy”*

NICE also intends to develop tools, including audit criteria, in association with relevant stakeholders to help organisations put this guidance into practice.