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The patient believes and own experience of Maggot-therapy in a multidisciplinary diabetic foot clinic.

Marleen De Pover, David Demey, Geert Rousseeuw, Kristien Van Acker
Artevelde Hogeschool, Gent, Belgium

Since 1997 we introduced maggot therapy in our country and we started therapy at the university of Antwerp.

At the moment this therapy is integrated in our daily practice.

Two nurse students were making an evaluation of the patient experience of this therapy. A questionnaire was made and they collected data from 18 patients. All of them had treatment with maggots in their therapy of their chronic non- healing wounds.

The students were especially interested in the personal experience of this therapy.

The first data collection was about information.

17% never heard of this therapy before. For the 83% of the other patients, who did receive information, most of them were informed by television, by knowing another patient with the same treatment and by their GP's.

60% felt comfortable during their first contact in getting information of this specific therapy. Only 43% of the family had a positive feeling about this therapy. 50% of the family asked for more information.

A second part of the data collection was about the outcome

7 patients had wounds on their toes, 4 on the heel, 3 had forefoot-ulcers, 2 with open wounds after a forefoot amputation, and 2 had wounds after a complicated lower leg amputation. The pain experience during maggot therapy was zero in 66,7% of the cases and moderate in 33,4% in the cases.

The patients were asked to give a success score on the therapy. 50% believed that only maggot-therapy was the successful therapy, 28% had some doubt that this was helping them, but were still believers and 22% didn't believe at all that the outcome was good due to this therapy.

We do believe in general that for empowerment reasons in therapy, it is good to have some data of the treatment believes of the patients. Because Maggot therapy is seen as a more alternative therapy we think that more data in this field can influence our insights and will help us in making decisions.