

Validation of an Experimental Wound Model to Assess the Debridement Skills of Podiatrist in the North West of England A Jackson¹, S Rajbhandari² ¹The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK ²Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Lancashire, UK

Background: Sharp debridement is important to treat diabetic foot ulcers, which is performed by podiatrists. At present there are no models to train and assess their debridement skills. **Aims:** This study aimed to establish validity of an experimental wound model to assess debridement skills. **Methods:** Fifty podiatrists from the North West of England participated in this study. A standard template was used to draw an irregular shape onto a grapefruit and participants were asked to debride it till the inner pink was visible. This area was measured using 'Image J' and the depth recorded using a standard depth scale. A questionnaire was given to podiatrists recording their years of experience and feedback on suitability of this model. **Results:** The median debrided area of grapefruit was set as the standard and the deviation from this was calculated. 70% of podiatrists debrided outside of a 10% margin of this standard. There was a trend for podiatrists who had the most experience to debride more closely to the standard. The standard deviation for the depth of debridement was 1.34 and this had no correlation with the podiatrist's experience. This model received an average score of 61.9% for its utility as a training model. **Conclusions:** Our data shows that there was a wide variation in the area to which the grapefruit was debrided from the standard shape which showed a trend relating to the experience. This model can be further developed as a simple and accessible tool to assess debridement skills.