ABSTRACT BOOK ABSTRACTS



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GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

WOUND AND LYMPHEDEMA CARE WITH LOW-COST LOCALLY SOURCED TWO-COMPONENT COMPRESSION BANDAGES IN WESTERN KENYA

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Background: In Western Kenya and other resource-limited settings, the burden of chronic wounds and lymphedema has a significant impact on functionality and quality of life. One of the major barriers to care in these settings is lack of wound care management resources. Pre-packaged compression bandages that are typically used to manage wounds and lymphedema in resource-replete settings are cost-prohibitive and often not available in resource-limited settings. After healthcare providers at an Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) health center in Western Kenya observed that donated two-component compression bandages were effective in managing venous leg ulcers and lymphedema, AMPATH Dermatology and Pharmacy collaborated to create a sustainable alternative. Since 2017, locally available materials have been utilized to create the inner paste bandage layer consisting of gauze and zinc oxide paste and elastic crepe for the outer bandage. These assembled compression bandages cost patients 2 USD each and are delivered throughout the AMPATH health network through MOH pharmacies.

Observation: Low-cost locally sourced bandages were initially created to meet a need for venous leg ulcers and lymphedema. They have also become mainstay care for traumatic wounds, which are highly prevalent in Western Kenya; after orthopedic management of bone and deep tissue injuries, wound care nurses in the fracture clinic are tasked with healing the skin wounds. The paste bandages (without compression) have also been utilized for skin-directed care in blistering skin conditions, such as Stevens Johnson Syndrome-Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, and as a protective dressing in diabetic wounds. As commonly seen in resource-limited settings, healthcare providers have found innovative uses for wound care supplies that are available.





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Key message: In Western Kenya, low-cost, locally sourced compression bandages initially created to improve management of venous leg ulcers and lymphedema have also been used to manage traumatic wounds, blistering skin conditions, and diabetic ulcers.



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