

ALLEVYN[®] LIFE can help to prevent pressure ulcers (PUs) in elderly patients with hip fracture

Use of ALLEVYN LIFE with standard preventive care reduced the incidence of sacral PUs



Study design

- An open-label, pragmatic, parallel-group, controlled, randomized (1:1) superiority trial to assess whether ALLEVYN LIFE can help prevent sacral PUs when added to standard care
- A total of 359 patients aged ≥ 65 years (81% female) admitted to the accident and emergency department with fragility hip fracture were enrolled into the study at an orthopaedic hospital in Italy
- Patients were assessed within 24 hours of admission and allocated a reactive foam mattress (Braden score <18 and >15), or an active support surface mattress (Braden score <16); all patients were moved every four hours until hospital discharge
- Patients received either this standard preventive care ($n=182$) or standard preventive care plus ALLEVYN LIFE ($n=177$), which was applied within 24 hours of admission for the study duration (eight days) and changed as required



Key results

Primary outcome

- Overall, 28 patients receiving standard preventive care developed sacral PUs compared with eight patients who also received ALLEVYN LIFE (relative risk, 0.29; 95% CI, 0.14 to 0.61; Figure 1)
- Number needed to treat was nine patients (95% CI, 6 to 21)



Secondary outcomes

- ALLEVYN LIFE plus standard preventive care reduced the incidence of all grades of sacral PUs compared with standard preventive care alone (Figure 2)
- Use of ALLEVYN LIFE plus standard preventive care also helped to delay the onset of PUs compared with standard preventive care alone (Day 6 vs Day 4; Kaplan–Meier analysis; $p=0.001$)

Evidence in focus (continued)



Conclusion

Adding ALLEVYN[®] LIFE to standard preventive care significantly reduced the onset of sacral PUs by 71% compared with standard preventive care alone in elderly patients with hip fracture ($p=0.001$).



Considerations

- Adhesiveness of ALLEVYN LIFE minimised dressing changes, which was not found to be rolled back or detached despite the dressing being lifted daily for skin inspection
- ALLEVYN LIFE was provided free of charge by Smith & Nephew; the company did not influence the methods and elaboration of the data collected in any way and had no role in data analyses or report writing



Study citation

* Forni C, D'Alessandro F, Gallerani P, et al. Effectiveness of using a new polyurethane foam multi-layer dressing in the sacral area to prevent the onset of pressure ulcer in the elderly with hip fracture: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial. *Int Wound J.* 2018;1–8.