

Treatment of a Patient in the Community with a Grade 3 Pressure Ulcer using the QUATTRO PRIME™ Mattress Replacement System

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Case Study

Joan is aged 43 and lives with her husband. She was assessed as having a Waterlow score of 21 (Waterlow, 1988), and weighed 7st 3lb. She had a poor appetite and anaemia, and had been diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis for 17 years. Joan spent considerable time in bed due to a non-healing Grade 3 pressure ulcer (EPUAP, 1999) on her sacrum which had been present for 2 years, causing anxiety to both Joan and her husband. They both enjoyed a good social life, but this was dependent upon the mobility of Joan. Healing this pressure ulcer would have a major impact on their quality of life and their relationship. A complex package of care involving both health and social care had been in place and was due for review. A area of concern related to the pressure ulceration. Despite being nursed on an alternating pressure



mattress and cushion, the pressure ulcer was static. Joan found the piece of equipment uncomfortable and her husband found it noisy.

This review coincided with the onset of the evaluation of the QUATTRO PRIME™ alternating air pressure mattress replacement system and a request was made to take part.

Method

The patient was visited at initial provision of the QUATTRO PRIME™ alternating air pressure mattress replacement system and every 12 weeks thereafter. The patient and her carers were asked to evaluate in relation to comfort, pain, noise, ease of setting up, cleansing and reliability.

Results

Joan's sacral pressure ulcer began to show signs of healing shortly after commencing the trial. Importantly, Joan found the mattress to be comfortable and quiet.



Joan began to gain weight as the pressure ulcer healed. The pressure ulcer completely healed, allowing Joan to lead a normal life. In addition, the issue of comfort and pain has also been addressed. Joan now spends more time going out and says that "life is really good at the moment". Joan continues to use the QUATTRO PRIME™ mattress system to prevent the occurrence of further pressure ulcers.



Conclusion

The care study of one patient with recalcitrant pressure ulcers highlights the effectiveness of the QUATTRO PRIME™ mattress replacement system in healing, and demonstrates how the effectiveness of a multi-professional approach together with the implementation of appropriate care and equipment can lead to the improvement of quality of life and the healing of a Grade 3 pressure ulcer in a patient with a severe neurological disorder.