New hope for chronic wound sufferers

infirst Healthcare launches Granulox® at the Wounds UK Annual Conference

10 November 2014: infirst Healthcare, the healthcare company focused on improving well-established drugs, will launch its first product Granulox® into the UK market at the Wounds UK Annual Conference in Harrogate on 10th-12th November.

Granulox® is a haemoglobin spray, the first of its kind to improve the levels of oxygen in chronic wounds, which is widely recognised as important for healing wounds such as foot ulcers, leg ulcers, pressure sores and post-surgical wounds1. Granulox® is proven to significantly speed up healing time for slow-healing venous leg ulcers2 with new data being presented at the Wounds UK Annual Conference demonstrating a high treatment response rate even in patients who have failed standard care3-6.

Leading clinicians will present recent case studies which show that facilitating an increase in oxygen concentration at the surface of a chronic wound using Granulox® can significantly reduce pain and restart wound healing in hypoxic wounds2. Evaluations were carried out in patients with chronic wounds suffering from conditions including diabetes, systemic sclerosis, spina bifida and rheumatoid arthritis. Patients who had failed to achieve complete wound closure, despite several adjustments to their care regimens prior to Granulox®, saw significant improvement following treatment with Granulox®, with complete wound closure achieved in the majority of patients3-6.

A symposium, “Hypoxia in the diabetic foot – An innovation review”, will explore how Granulox® benefits the treatment of foot ulcers in patients with reduced blood circulation. The symposium is being hosted at FDUK 10 Years On, a specialist event on diabetes foot care running in parallel to the Wounds UK Annual Conference.

Manfred Scheske, CEO, infirst Healthcare says “Recognising patient needs and addressing these effectively is an important part of our work; there are too many people suffering from chronic wounds. More and more data through real case scenarios is allowing us to show how Granulox® can really make a difference in wound healing. We are delighted to be launching Granulox® at the Wounds UK Annual Conference. Its unique delivery mechanism and proven efficacy make this a pivotal product in chronic wound care treatment.”

Granulox® was launched in the EU in 2012 and will be available to the NHS in England and Wales and to NHSScotland from November 2014, subject to local formulary inclusions for wider adoption. A number of pilot usage studies are already under way in leading UK Trusts, CCGs and Healthboards.
Case study: Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

It is estimated that 7,000 people with diabetes will require amputations in 2014/15, mainly because of non-healing diabetic foot ulcers due to hypoxia.

Joe Smith*, 46, from the Salford area was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes 13 years ago and had one toe amputated in May 2013 following complications of foot ulceration. The post-amputation wound failed to heal despite different preparations, including foams and hydrogels, being used over a 9 month period. When Mr Smith started treatment with Granulox®, the wound size was 14x9mm. After 3 months using Granulox®, the wound had closed completely. It had been persistent for a total of 12 months and static for 2 months, prior to Granulox® treatment.

Consultant: Paul Chadwick, Consultant Podiatrist, Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation

*Real name withheld to protect identity

Interviews are available with the leading clinicians presenting at the Wounds UK Annual Conference:

• Mike Green, Diabetes Specialist Podiatrist, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust
• Luxmi Mohamud, Clinical Nurse Specialist *(TVN), Guys and St Thomas Community Services, Dulwich Community Hospital
• Joanne McCardle, Advanced Clinical and Research Diabetes Podiatrist, NHS Lothian University Hospital, Edinburgh
• Richard Leigh, Head of Podiatry, Royal Free Hospital – TBC

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About Chronic Wounds

Chronic wounds do not heal in an orderly set of stages and in a predictable amount of time (within 3 months), the way most wounds do. The most common reasons and or underlying conditions are diabetes (foot), poor blood circulation (venous leg ulcers) and constant pressure (pressure ulcers/ bed soreness). Poor blood supply and inadequate tissue oxygenation contribute to bacterial colonization. There is increasing evidence that bacteria within chronic wounds develop resistance to antibiotic treatment. In addition, patients that carry drug-resistant bacterial strains such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) have more chronic wounds.

About infirst HEALTHCARE

infirst Healthcare is a UK-based healthcare company which spun out of the SEEK drug discovery group in early 2013. Its developments aim to build on the trust and safety of well-known drugs and to develop formulations which result in a genuinely perceived difference in performance. The ultimate goal is improved and highly effective health management at an early intervention stage, involving patients, the family practitioners and paediatricians as well as pharmacists.

Among infirst Healthcare’s shareholders is Invesco Perpetual, one of the UK’s largest independent investment funds. Infirst Healthcare is run by Manfred Scheske, an ex-GSK veteran who led GSK’s North American and European Consumer Healthcare businesses for a combined 12 years.

References