VenUS 6
Venous Leg Ulcer Study

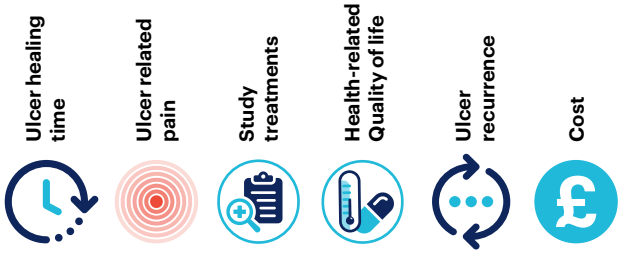
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VenUS 6 leg ulcer treatment study

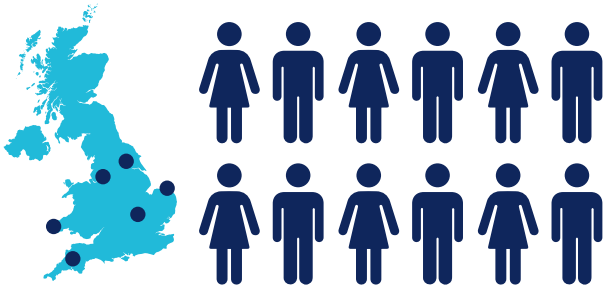


Venous leg ulcers are painful wounds on the lower leg that can take a long time to heal. These ulcers are usually treated with compression therapy.



VenUS 6 wanted to find out which type of compression therapy is best at treating people with these ulcers

We did this by comparing the impact of different compression therapies on people's time to ulcer healing, ulcer pain, risk of ulcer infection, skin issues and new ulcers forming, experiences of wearing compression and how much each compression treatment cost.



637 adults with venous leg ulcers from across England and Wales took part. Most people were aged 70 years and there was a roughly even split of men and women.

Participants had an equal chance to be allocated to one of 3 treatment groups.



***Four-Layer Bandage**

***Two-Layer Compression Stockings**

Two-Layer Bandage

Compression Wrap

*In one group people could be treated with the four-layer bandage or two-layer stockings depending on what the nurse and and participant thought was best.

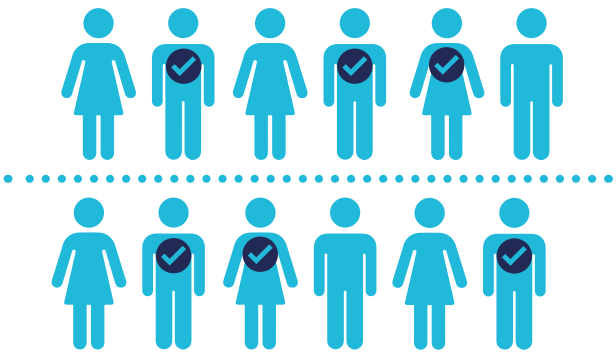
STUDY RESULTS



The results showed that, on average, people's ulcers were slower to heal if they had been allocated to receive compression wraps.



The time it took for an ulcer to heal was similar when two-layer bandage or the choice of four-layer bandage/ two-layer stockings were used.



Peoples' health related quality of life was similar in each of the groups. The chances of ulcer infections, new ulcers forming, skin deterioration or more ulcer-related pain were similar for all treatments.

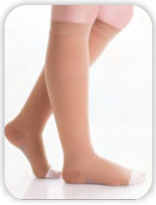


We considered which compression therapy offered the best value for money to the NHS by considering VenUS 6 findings alongside all other relevant research. Doing this, we found the two-layer stocking was the most cost effective of all the treatments.

We also asked the people and nurses taking part in VenUS for their thoughts on each of the treatment types.



Participants liked they could loosen their wraps or take them off if needed but nurses were concerned this meant participants didn't get enough compression.



Participants liked that they could take the stocking off if needed, but did find it difficult to apply.



Participants found bandages made their legs feel heavy, but nurses considered that these generally gave enough compression as people did not remove these themselves.

CONCLUSION

Ulcer healing seems to take longer when people are offered compression wraps, compared with other compression therapies, so they may not be a good first choice. However, for some people they may still be the best option if using stockings or bandages is problematic.

From the VenUS 6 Team thank you for taking part!

Your contribution helps improve treatment for people with venous leg ulcers.



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