27TH CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN WOUND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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PROGRAMME

CHANGE, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
– WOUND MANAGEMENT IN CHANGING HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



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[OP058] CHRONIC WOUND CARE IN TURKEY

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Turkey's 80 million population which comprises of young people at present, is expected to age in near future. Based on some prevalence studies about diabetes and pressure ulcers, chronic wound patients are estimated to be over one million currently and expected to increase with the aging population. Despite this situation, a national chronic wound care program is not present but there are remarkable attempts to establish one.

Fortunately, there are a number of organizations that deal with chronic wound care. Turkish Wound Management Association of Turkey (WMAT) is the cooperating organization of EWMA. With a multidisciplinary structure, it has been working on developing wound care for the last twenty years. WMAT organizes national wound care symposiums and wound care nurse certification courses every year. Wound, Ostomy and Incontinence Nurses Society (WOINS) is the leading nurse association in this field. The society had a major role in preparing the related parts of National Nursing Regulations and developing the course standards of wound care nurse certification programs. It organizes Ostomy and Wound Care Nurse Certification courses every year. There are also several courses by private institutions.

At the local level, there are wound councils in some hospitals. One of the most established councils is the Chronic Wound Council in Istanbul Faculty of Medicine. More than 1000 patients have been evaluated with an interdisciplinary approach since its foundation in 2005. Several councils, either for diabetic foot or chronic wound, have been started in other hospitals afterwards.

In addition, a team attended the Train the Foot Trainer program organized by IWGDF and IDF in 2015. They have been working on implementing the program in cooperation with Ministry of Health.

Finally, with the initiative of majorly WMAT and WOINS, Ministry of Health has recently commenced the preparation of a national chronic wound care plan which is a necessity for Turkey.