

New ulcer ‘preventing’ device available on NHS

Editor

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A liquid gel shoe insert that aims to prevent diabetes-related foot ulcers has been made available on prescription for the first time.

An average of 300 new foot ulcers are diagnosed every day and 120 people undergo an amputation each week – 80 per cent of which are preceded by a foot ulcer.

The Liqua-care diabetic insole prevents foot ulcers by evenly distributing a patient’s weight, reducing peak pressure and promoting better circulation.

It is the first time a preventative orthotic product of this kind has been made available on NHS prescription and will substantially reduce the £700 million and more currently spent on diabetic foot ulceration and amputation.

In the clinical trial, led by Duncan Stang, National Diabetes Foot Coordinator for Scotland, results showed:

- Patients had a 21.5 per cent reduction in forefoot pressure
- Circulation in the foot had improved by a “clinically significant” five per cent after only two weeks’ use

A two-year, post-trial check revealed that none of the group had a reported instance of ulceration.

Duncan Stang, National Diabetes Foot Coordinator for Scotland, who headed the clinical team, said: “The results that Liqua Care generated in the clinical trials were quite exceptional. To demonstrate a 21.5 per cent reduction in forefoot pressures and a clinically significant increase in transcutaneous oxygen pressure in this group of patients was very exciting.

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“For the sample group, of which nearly half had previously ulcerated therefore carrying a 50 per cent likelihood of re-ulceration within 12 months, these results were extremely important. To then realise that none of the group had a reported instance of ulceration two years later is nothing short of remarkable.

“We now have approval from the NHS for Liqua-care to be accessed via prescription for ‘at risk’ patients with diabetes – this is a massive step forward in diabetes foot care. To have this clinically proven treatment which can prevent ulcers arising rather than just treating them when they have developed is what the NHS, clinicians and patients alike have been waiting to arrive for a great many years.”

David Watt, managing director of Liqua-care said: “We have taken a great deal of time and care to prove the effectiveness of Liqua-care insoles in order for them to be made available on prescription for people with diabetes.”

Liqua-care Diabetic FlowGel Orthotics cost the NHS £17 a pair. They can be requested through GPs, district nurses or podiatrists or are available at www.liqua-care.co.uk.



