

EWMA 2013 abstract Vuagnat

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Resource poor settings: toward access to rehabilitation in wound care

These last years have seen a growing interest in teaching basic “advanced” wound care in resource poor settings. Indeed proper knowledge of the wound healing process and access to simple wound care products can make a huge difference in both rate and quality of healing. But taking care of wound is sometimes more than just local wound care and a more holistic approach is necessary.

Many healed wounds potentially lead to disabling conditions despite skin closure.

Part of this approach, rehabilitation skills can be very precious in order to prevent or limit disability linked to the basic illness (eg. diabetes) and/or the wound healing process (eg. Burns, Buruli ulcer).

Of course, in resource poor settings, access to rehabilitation centers will be difficult or nonexistent. Furthermore, caregivers can be unaware of this need.

Therefore, both patients and caregivers must have access to simple rehabilitation exercises.

Family empowerment in the rehabilitation process can also be effective.

A few cases will be presented, based on Buruli ulcer treatments.

**Key words:** wound healing, Buruli ulcer, disability, rehabilitation, low resource settings