Appendix A. Round 1 Questionnaire

Future Research on Chronic Venous Ulcers (CVU): Feedback Round 1 (of 2)

Based on the findings of our review we put together the following three lists of research gaps in our knowledge about the treatment of chronic venous ulcers. If you feel that there are additional important gaps within the scope of the review that we did not identify, please insert them in the blank lines at the bottom of the appropriate table. Please complete and return this questionnaire **no later than Wednesday, September 5th.**

We will send you a summary of the feedback we receive from all of the stakeholders who complete this questionnaire. This will be included in a followup questionnaire, which will ask you to reconsider your initial rankings of the gaps in light of the rankings given by the others.

Gaps in Clinical Treatments

Please rank the following broad types of clinical treatments for chronic venous ulcers as to the priority with which major CVU research should be conducted (from 1 = highest priority, to 3). In deciding these priorities, please consider each treatment's potential to change practice and/or to improve clinical and patient outcomes.

	Treatment type	Rank (1-3)	Comments
1	Antibiotics		
2	Wound dressings		
3	Venous surgery		

In the course of the systematic review, we identified a large number of modalities for treating chronic venous ulcers in various clinical situations. The purpose of this section is to identify the treatments that should be given high priority in future research. Please indicate what you believe is the most important treatment to be studied for each of the eight clinical situations listed in the following table. That is, please enter in the "Intervention" column one specific intervention that should be tested first for that clinical situation. For example, in Situation 1 (antibiotics for clinically noninfected chronic venous ulcers), enter the one antibiotic that you believe should be tested first?

At the bottom of the table, please feel free to suggest other treatments that should be tested in these and other common clinical situations.

	Clinical situation	Intervention to be tested first
Antibiotics	1. For clinically noninfected ulcers	
Wound dressings	2. For exudative ulcers	
	3. For dry ulcers	
	4. For recalcitrant[*] ulcers	
Venous surgery	5. For superficial veins with reflux	
	6. For incompetent perforating veins	
	7. For deep veins with reflux	
	8. For obstructed deep veins	
Other common treatment situations (please enter below)		

[*]recalcitrant ulcers are those that have persisted for more than 12 months

Gaps in Research Methods

Please rank each of the following research methods gaps as to the priority for closing the gap (high, medium or low). In ranking your priorities, please consider for each gap the following criteria:

Importance – importance of the item to the validity, consistency, and ease of interpretation and reporting of research findings.

Impact –potential to change research practices, reporting practices, clinical practices and/or clinical and patient outcomes.

In the Comments column, please add your suggestions for improving the wording of a gap description and any available information about ongoing studies that are already addressing or may soon address a gap. You may also comment about the feasibility of conducting new research that would address the gap.

	Gaps	Priority			Comments
		H	M	L	
1	Lack of standard operational definitions and classifications of "chronic venous ulcers" and "non-healing venous ulcers."				
2	Lack of a common system for classifying the dressings used to treat CVUs.				
3	Lack of standards for characterizing the patients enrolled in studies of CVU treatment.				
	Lack of standards for *designing studies* of the treatment of CVUs, i.e.:				
4	…for estimating proper sample sizes.				
5	…for selecting valid comparison groups.				
6	…for establishing the needed duration of followup.				
7	…for selecting important and valid outcome measures.				
	Lack of standards for *conducting research* on the treatment of CVUs, i.e.:				
8	…for recruiting patients.				

9	…for allocating patients to treatment groups.			
10	…for measuring outcomes.			
11	…for analyzing data.			
	Lack of standards for ***reporting the results*** of studies of the treatment of CVUs, i.e.:			
12	…for describing all patients' flow through studies.			
13	…for including patients who were lost to follow-up.			
14	…for reporting harms.			
	Other important research gaps that are desirable to close (please enter and rank below):			