

## FRENCH WOUND CARE CONFERENCE: *JOURNÉES CICATRISATIONS*



**Jevgenija Purane – Credentials & Experience:** Jevgenija Purane, Doctor of Pharmacy, is an independent expert in medical marketing and advocacy in the field of health products. Jevgenija has 15 years' experience with big and small organisations. Six years ago, Jevgenija went on to create her own consultancy, PUR SUCCES ([www.pursucces.com](http://www.pursucces.com)), to support companies' strategic projects such as market research, growth opportunities, new product launches and management of KOLs. Jevgenija has been working in wound care since 2010 and her network includes wound care experts and stakeholders.

The annual and largest French conference on wound care "Journées Cicatrisations" took place in Paris 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024, organised by the French Wound Healing Society ([www.SFFPC.org](http://www.SFFPC.org)).

Attendance this year was particularly high with more than 1700 participants and 41 exhibitors bringing together clinicians involved in wound care, scientists and industry. This forum is for young companies as well as the long established. There is an exhibition area dedicated to start-ups with discounted fees. In addition to the traditional symposia and workshops, this year companies could participate in an "Agora" (market place) by making a 15 min pitch about their products to clinicians.

The plenary session covered new product launches in 2023 and 2024, changes in reimbursement status, clinical research, challenges in medical device supply and development of telemedicine. Price rises and shortages of supply of medical devices were blamed in part on the impact of the aftermath of the pandemic and conflicts on international trade and the slowdown in commercialisation of new products on the longer lead times required by CE Marking under the MDR 2017/745 regulation.

The year 2023 was rich in clinical studies with 76 RCTs published dedicated to the following topics in descending order: Compression, NPWT, advanced dressings (mostly antimicrobial dressings with silver dressings at the top of the list). There were Cochrane systematic reviews on silicone gels, products containing Hyaluronic Acid, Hydrogels and NPWT.

Two types of reimbursement are possible in France for medical devices: "under a brand name" (*nom de marque*) for a unique product with a dedicated price based on the clinical dossier or in a generic category with a standard price. The review of reimbursement changes included listing on the Reimbursement Tariff (LPP) under brand name for PICO 7 NPWT (Smith & Nephew), renewal of reimbursement for brands Effidia (*cream and gauze pad with hyaluronic acid*), Actisorb (3M) and Urgoclean. Several products have had their reimbursement prices reduced e.g those with CMC fibres, traditional compresses, Algosteril (Lab. Brothier) and Micropore (3M).

Several new products were introduced such as Accutrack (compression monitoring device), Actigraft (Reddress) autologous blood wound treatment, Micromatrix (Integra) powder form of an extra cellular matrix and Accel-Heal Solo (Accel Heal), electrotherapy. A new brand range Viverex (portable NPWT in combination with a 5-layer hydrocellular reservoir dressing) was presented. 3D printed dermal substitutes are being developed in France and already show promising preclinical results. New sizes and shapes were introduced for Cutimed Sorbion, Resposorb Silicone Border and Suprasorb P Sensitive. Suprasorb A Pro and DryMax Soft have a new composition of materials.

Lohmann Rauscher announced it would launch its Rosidal Sys Simple compression kit (compact format and quick to apply) in 2024 and introduce the not yet reimbursed ReadyWrap (self-adjusting compression wraps for lymphoedema). Coban 2 (3M) obtained a favourable Health Authority technology evaluation for a new indication in lymphoedema.

After the difficult period linked to the pandemic, "Journées Cicatrisations" conference is once again taking a central place in events dedicated to wound healing for French-speaking participants.