TITLE: The Use of Anti-slip Socks for Long-term Care Residents: Clinical Effectiveness, Safety, Cost-effectiveness, and Guidelines

DATE: 24 October 2011

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents in preventing falls and injuries?

2. What is the clinical evidence on the safety of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents?

3. What is the cost-effectiveness of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents?

4. What are the evidence-based guidelines and recommendations for the use of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents?

KEY MESSAGE

Limited evidence was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness, safety, cost-effectiveness, and evidence-based guidelines and recommendations of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents in preventing falls and injuries.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2011, Issue 10), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2006 and October 17, 2011. Internet links were provided, where available.
The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, economic evaluations, and evidence-based guidelines.

Two evidence-based guidelines and recommendations regarding the use of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents in preventing falls and injuries were identified. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, or economic evaluations were identified. No literature regarding the clinical effectiveness, safety, or cost-effectiveness of anti-slip socks for long-term care residents was identified. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One evidence-based guideline\(^1\) suggests providing anti-slip socks for long-term care residents as it may reduce the risk of older adults falling during their stay. Another evidence-based guideline\(^2\) suggests that staff in a dementia-specific setting provide special socks with tread for the residents at bedtime to reduce the risk of residents slipping on urine.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

Economic Evaluations
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations


PREPARED BY:
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
www.cadth.ca
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Non-randomized studies – anti-slip socks in healthy subjects
