CADTH Reference List

Compression Garments for People With Venous Leg Ulcers

December 2021
Key Messages

• Two primary qualitative studies explored the perspectives and experiences of people engaged with compression garments as part of their maintenance therapy to prevent venous leg ulcer recurrence.

• Three primary qualitative studies explored the perspectives and experiences of people engaged with compression garments as part of the processes of treating venous leg ulcers.

• No mixed-methods studies exploring the use of compression garments as either part of maintenance therapy to prevent venous leg ulcer recurrence or as part of the process of treating venous leg ulcers were reviewed.

Research Questions

1. What literature is available that explores how people — or their formal and informal caregivers — engage with and experience the use of compression garments as part of their maintenance therapy to prevent wound recurrence?

2. What literature is available that explores how people with a venous leg ulcer, or their formal and informal caregivers, engage with and experience the process of treating venous leg ulcers with compression garments (as a non-surgical intervention)?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE via OVID, the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) via EBSCOhost, and Scopus. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were compression garments and venous leg ulcers. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to qualitative studies. The search was limited to English-language documents published between January 1, 2011 and November 29, 2021. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed.
Table 1: Selection Criteria

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<th>Criteria</th>
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| **Sample**          | Question 1: People 18 years or older living with a venous leg ulcer that has been closed through treatment; people involved in caring for those living with venous leg ulcers (e.g., health care providers, family, friends)  
                      Question 2: People aged 18 years or older living with a venous leg ulcer; people involved in caring for those with venous leg ulcers (e.g., health care providers, family, friends) |
| **Phenomena of interest** | Question 1: Use of compression garments (i.e., compression stockings, compression tubing, or loop/fastener compression systems) for the prevention of recurrent venous leg ulcers  
                      Process of applying compression garments and associated challenges  
                      Question 2: Process of identifying and seeking treatment for venous leg ulcers  
                      Process of undergoing non-surgical treatment for venous leg ulcers |
| **Design**          | Any qualitative design                                                                                                                     |
| **Evaluation**      | Experiences, perspectives, or understandings of any of the processes listed under the “phenomena of interest” for either question                |
| **Research type**   | Primary qualitative studies, qualitative components of primary mixed-methods studies (excluding surveys)                                     |

Results

Qualitative Rapid Response reports are organized by types of study designs — primary qualitative studies and primary mixed-methods studies.

Two primary qualitative studies\(^1\)\(^2\) explored the perspectives and experiences of people engaged with compression garments as part of their maintenance therapy to prevent venous leg ulcer recurrence. While neither of these studies take experiences with compression garments as the aim of their inquiry, the description of findings noted in both abstracts indicate that experiences with compression garments are a primary component of the study. For this reason, we have included both, as they seem likely to speak to research question 1. Three primary qualitative studies\(^3\)\(^5\) explored the perspectives and experiences of people engaged with compression garments as part of the processes of treating venous leg ulcers. No mixed-methods studies were found exploring the use of compression garments as either part of maintenance therapy to prevent venous leg ulcer recurrence or as part of the process of treating venous leg ulcers.

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.
Primary Qualitative Studies — Question 1

Primary Qualitative Studies — Question 2

Primary Mixed-Methods Studies — Question 1
No references identified

Primary Mixed-Methods Studies — Question 2
No references identified
Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest


