

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Pain in the Foot

Ms Verona du Toit, Associate Professor Andrea Bialocerkowski and Adjunct Professor Joshua Burns from the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences have received funding support from the Australasian Podiatry Council to undertake study that will increase the availability of clinical guidelines for the treatment of foot pain.

'Foot pain affects nearly one in five of people in the community' explains Ms du Toit. 'And foot pain is particularly prevalent in older people, affecting approximately one in three people aged over 65 years. To assist in implementing appropriate treatment plans, podiatrists need access to clinical guidelines based on the best available scientific evidence. Clinical guidelines assist practitioners and patients to make decisions about appropriate health care and encourage the use of evidence-based treatments which can be more cost effective. Among the other important benefits of using well developed clinical guidelines is that they support a consistent approach to treatment.'

This project will undertake a search of international websites and databases for podiatry guidelines that identify and recommend treatment for a range of conditions that cause foot pain. Using appropriate appraisal tools, each guideline will be critically examined by three researchers to determine which guidelines meet a threshold in quality. Those which meet that threshold will be reviewed to determine if they can be applied to podiatry practice in Australia. The finalised guidelines will be developed into an e-resource so that clinicians can refer to this information quickly and easily.



The results of this study will be disseminated to Australian podiatry stakeholders. The use of standard, evidence based clinical guidelines will lead to more accurate identification of symptoms, effective treatment and result in improved outcomes for people suffering from foot pain.

Project Title: Clinical Guidelines for Foot Pain: Podiatry Perspective

Funding has been set at: \$9,960

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http://www.uws.edu.au/biomedical_health_sciences

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