Welcome to the 13th issue of DARCO Europe E-Journal

Dear Reader,

Think to the future – Learn from the past

It’s a new year and we not only take look back but also set our sights on the positive direction 2018 will take us and where we want to go. Our objectives remain the same and so too will the E-Journal. We will continue to bring you the latest from our perspective and remain dedicated to the sharing of knowledge and information. We hope you enjoy reading the E-Journal and would welcome any feedback you’d like to contribute.

In this issue of DARCO’s E-Journal, we adress the subject of innovation in foot care technology and what changes we’ve made to remain ‘one step ahead’. And we return to a tried and tested device in our portfolio. The E-Journal allows us to keep you abridged on all the advancements we’re pursuing.

Many orthopaedic disorders relate to the rear foot. Common ailments like plantar fasciitis and posterior tibial tendon dysfunction to more severe problems such as Charcot arthropathy, rheumatoid arthritis, neuromuscular disease, and the devastating event of amputations, can all affect the rear foot or ankle. The management of orthopaedic therapy has extensively engaged in the treatment of all of these conditions and DARCO is a leading medical device provider in this specialized field of therapy.

Yours sincerely,
Rainer Kalleitner
Director of International Sales DARCO (Europe) GmbH

DARCO is a founding member of:

Gesellschaft für Fuß- und Sprunggelenkschirurgie e.V.
Society for Foot and Ankle Surgery

www.gesellschaft-fuer-fusschirurgie.de
www.woundcare-circle.com

News & Notes

Knowing the latest trends in the market ...

For DARCO, that means taking into consideration all points of view: Technicians, Designers, Doctors, Patients and the Distributor.

DARCO takes the input from national and international trade shows as well as the insights from medical professionals and close partners when moving forward with innovations.

Attending multiple scientific discussions and lectures across continents empowers us to grow, create and develop our innovations to meet the ever growing needs of people afflicted. We proudly present two new manufacturing facilities here in Germany: One up north in Hainichen, very close to Leipzig and one right next door here in Raisting, HG medical group. By doing so, we now have the capacity to bring to market new innovations and designs while closely maintaining attention to detail and quality. We will display our latest innovations this year at the industry’s largest and most important meeting place in the world. Join us at OTWorld 2018 and see what new directions we have forged.

www.ot-world.com
HeelWedge®
Off-loading Shoe

Treatment of plantar fasciitis, ulcerations, infections, trauma and following surgery of the soft tissue or bony structure of the heel.

The DARCO HeelWedge® is clinically proven to off-load pressure from the heel by shifting weight to the mid and forefoot for promoting faster healing after surgery, trauma or when wounds or ulcerations are present on the heel.

**Indications**
- rearfoot trauma
- wounds or ulcerations present on the heel area
- post surgical healing for either soft tissue or bony structure of the heel
- for the treatment of plantar fasciitis, ulcerations, infections, trauma and following surgery of the soft tissue or bony structure of the heel

**Features and Benefits**
- Reduces heel pressure by as much as 26%.
- Square Toe design protects the toes and allows space for bandages.
- Ankle Strap seats foot firmly in shoe to reduce slippage while minimizing shear forces.
- Removable forefoot closure offers easy adjustments while providing a secure fit without buckle pressure points.
- Outer-sole is durable with a high profile tread under the midfoot where traction is needed most.
- The removable insole has twice the padding of standard insoles and can also be modified as needed. The insole can be removed to accommodate DARCO’s innovative PegAssist®, a customizable, off-loading insole for even more targeted off-loading.
- The TwinShoe compensation shoe is also available for proper height adjustment.

**Sizes**
- available in 5 Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL
- can be worn on the right or left foot

Please find detailed information on our website www.darco-europe.com
Gait Training – Off-loading shoes used correctly is essential

Hindfoot relief can remove the entire load from the heel while providing targeted relief to specific areas through cushioning and/or additional customizable insoles. Great caution must be taken when treating patients with neuropathies!*

As long as the upper and lower ankle joints are properly aligned, the cause of plantar ulcers at the heel/calcaneus are often forced by foreign bodies (i.e. little stones in the shoe) and by shear forces, especially in Hawaiian style sandals. In addition, intrinsic deformities, as with bone spurs might create high peak pressure points resulting in plantar ulcerations.

Usually in human gait, after the swing phase, the first ground contact is made with the heel. In the event of heel injuries, ulcers, pain, etc. this first heel strike needs to be avoided. An off-loading shoe can facilitate this, but the proper use of this effective shoe is critical for success and the over-all healing process. Patients require proper instruction and training on the correct gait method when wearing these medical devices. And they must understand how a correct gait pattern will reduce trauma to the heel. Ideally, a patient’s initial contact should be with the forefoot, as seen with some running styles. This simple alteration in gait can shift additional load to the forefoot.

In the event of existing injuries or ulcers on the forefoot, contraindicate the use of such a rear foot off-loader. Special attention is also necessary in the case of Achilles tendon injuries. A “forefoot-gait” coupled with a rear foot off-loader, may create additional tension in this area.

Additional aids may also be required such as a height compensation shoe to be worn on the contralateral side or crutches may also be used.

In conclusion, proper education and gait training must be regarded as an important aspect of the healing process.

by Raphael Boehm, Vice President DARCO Europe

Literature:
"Baumgartner et al (2016) "Pedorthics" | C. Maurer publisher, Geislingen, Germany
Events

January 2018

21st – 23rd January | Paris, France
Journées cicatrisations 2018
www.cicatrisations2018.org
Booth number: 40

29th January – 1st February | Dubai, UAE
Arab Health
www.arabhealthonline.com
Booth number: 4D70

March 2018

06th – 10th March | New Orleans, USA
AAOS Annual Meeting
www.aaos.org/annual/

14th – 17th March | Scheffau, Austria
8th Winter Meeting and 3rd International Symposia for Endoprosthetics of the ankle joint
www.moderne-medizin.at

22nd – 24th March | Going, Austria
12th International Meeting of the Austrian Foot Society
www.fussgesellschaft.at/de/kongresse-kurse

April 2018

11th – 14th April | Shanghai, China
China Medical Equipment Fair
www.cmeif.com.cn/g1225.aspx

May 2018

9th – 11th May | Krakow, Poland
EWMA | European Wound Management Association
www.ewma.org

15th – 18th May | Leipzig, Germany
OTWorld
www.ot-world.com

15th – 18th May | Malvern, UK
17th Malvern Diabetic Foot Conference
www.malverndiabeticfoot.org

Imprint

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