Welcome to the 2nd issue of DARCO Europe E-Journal

Dear Readers,

The DARCO E-Journal is a quarterly publication designed for the medical community, institutions and distributors throughout Europe; providing information about treatment of the foot & ankle.

Strong partnership with foot care specialists worldwide

DARCO’s close cooperation with the foot surgery specialists, medical associations and the biomechanical institutes around the world is the foundation for our innovative product research and development.

We are the main sponsor of the German Society for Foot and Ankle Surgery, which is a leading foot society organizing scientific symposia, seminars and workshops throughout the year. Furthermore, DARCO is one of the founders of the Woundcare-Circle which is a global partnership of international well-known companies; founded to provide clinicians and patients superior solutions for the redistribution of pressure at the heel, foot and ankle.

Therefore, it is possible for us to integrate the latest advancements and technology into our products to continually improve the effectiveness of our devices; this is our objective.

We hope you enjoy reading the latest issue of the DARCO E-Journal and that it’ll be an effective and reliable source of information for you and your colleagues.

Rainer Kalleitner
Director of International Sales Darco (Europe) GmbH

DARCO Founding member of:

Spring time is exhibition time.

The participation on international trade shows is an important part of our success. Hence, we invest lots of time and creative energy into some of the most recognizable conferences and exhibitions in the world. This involvement not only allows us to meet »face to face« with our customers and to present new products and share expertise, but this investment also supports the DARCO product name for our customers across all regions and borders.

We will be present with all of our product segments in focus at a number of events throughout the year. (Postoperative, trauma, sports and Woundcare treatment for the foot)

We would welcome any opportunity to meet with you on site at the DARCO booth. Let us know if you’ll be in London, The Hague, Berlin or even Austria in the upcoming months. For detailed information, please go to our event schedule provided on the website. darco-europe.com

We’re on location with our professional partners and international speakers.

We look forward to seeing you wherever you might plan to go!
DARCO OrthoWedge
Off-loading shoe

The DARCO OrthoWedge is clinically proven to reduce weight bearing pressure on the forefoot which promotes faster healing after surgery, trauma or when forefoot wounds or ulcerations are present.

Use after surgeries to correct hallux valgus, hammer toes / Tailor’s bunions and treatment of diabetic ulcerations.

A Time Tested Option
Incidences of diabetes are at an all time high with the level of newly reported cases up a staggering 48 % in the last 10 years*. In many cases, the resulting neuropathic limbs mean that diabetic ulcers on the feet are a distinct and very dangerous possibility. Since pressure and abrasion are the enemies of wound care, the OrthoWedge is designed to naturally reduce the number of steps taken by the patient while still allowing them to ambulate when necessary. The DARCO OrthoWedge has been tested under fire in both clinical and real world settings and continues to produce outstanding results. When forefoot off-loading is required to allow wounds/ulcerations under the metatarsal heads and toes to heal, nothing beats the OrthoWedge.

Need Targeted Off-Loading? Add a PegAssist® Insole
When used alone, the OrthoWedge Healing Shoe reduces forefoot pressure by as much as 57 % and peak pressure is reduced by as much as 75 % under the Great Toe! But when combined with our innovative PegAssist® customizable insole, you can achieve astounding localized pressure relief without the risk of edge abrasion or ring edema present in other off-loading methods. The PegAssist® insole’s Poron® cover minimizes friction while the closed cell Plastazote® layer absorbs shock and comfortably conforms to the foot.

> 15˚ Wedge Sole effectively shifts body weight to the midfoot and heel. Reduces forefoot pressure by as much as 57 %.
> Square Toe Design acts as a bumper to protect the toes when k-wires are present and provides better left/right fit.
> Ankle Strap seats foot firmly in shoe to reduce heel slippage and eliminate friction.
> Removable Forefoot Closure provides security while eliminating buckle pressure and provides for easy left/right usage.
> Zoned Outsole has an aggressive tread under the mid-foot where traction is needed most.
> Removable Insole features twice the padding of standard insoles and can be modified as needed. Insole can be totally removed to accommodate DARCO’s innovative PegAssist® customizable off-loading insole.
> For product demonstration video please visit www.darco-europe.com

Neutral OrthoWedge OrthoWedge + PegAssist®

Please find detailed information on our website www.darco-europe.com

* Baronski, Sharon; Ayello, Elizabeth A. “Wound Care Essentials”
Correction of Bunions using the Austin/Chevron Osteotomy (V-Osteotomy)

While Literature in the year 1930\(^1\) described just 25 techniques to correct bunions, today we can count more than 150 techniques\(^2\). These techniques include corrections of the phalangeal bones as well as the metatarsal bones and/or the belonging soft tissues. One of the most frequently used methods in mild deformities (Grad 1–2, IMA < 15°) is the V-shaped osteotomy, also called CHEVRON or AUSTIN.

The idea is to shift the Metatarsal head from medial to lateral. This technique not only allows a two-dimensional correction of the inter-metatarsal angle, but also – if needed – a lengthening or shortening of the 1st ray, as well as a plantarisation of the metatarsal head, depending on the direction of the osteotomy. Different variations of this technique are prescribed. Primarily influenced by the critical direction of the osteotomy in relation to the blood supply to the metatarsal head.

Additional osteotomies – like AKIN – might be required in the first phalangeal bone.

Also soft tissue correction – mainly the so called LATERAL RELEASE – might be required to finally get the first ray back into a straight position and having the metatarsal head covering the sesamoid bone again. The osteotomy is usually performed through a medial or dorsomedial surgical approach. The cut itself looks a bit like a V-shaped cut.

A 60°–70° angulation is recommended, but may differ from case to case. Fixation with a K-WIRE in the early days was common; nowadays a cannulated compression screw is regarded to be the standard.

For post-op treatment a forefoot off-loading shoe like the DARCO OrthoWedge\(^6\) can be recommended. Attention: the correct treatment always is determined on a ‘case by case’ basis and the surgeons experience.

References
\(^1\) Timmer, (1930) “Die Behandlung des Hallux Valgus”, Barth Publisher, Leipzig
\(^6\) Figure 1-2013-Iss01: Hetherington, (1994) “Hallux Valgus and Forefoot Surgery”, Churchill Livingston, London

Further reading
www.kent.edu/cpm/academics/library/hallux.cfm
Events

April 2015

Apr 10 – 11, 2015 | Graz, Österreich
GFFC 12. Grazer Seminar für praktische Fußchirurgie
www.gffc.de

Apr 16 – 18, 2015 | Kassel
EXPOLIFE
www.egrohweb.de/portal/page.php?id=102133

May 2015

May 06 – 08, 2015 | Bremen
Bremer Pflegekongress – Deutscher Wundkongress
www.bremer-pflegekongress.de

May 08 – 09, 2015 | Wien, Austria
GFFC 2. Wiener Seminar für praktische Fußchirurgie
www.gffc.de

May 13 – 15, 2015 | London, UK
Conference of European Wound Management Association
www.ewma2015.org

May 15 – 16, 2015 | Rheine
GFFC 9. Expertenkurs Technische Orthopädie (Einlagen-Workshop)
www.gffc.de

May 15 – 18, 2015 | Shanghai, China
CMEF China Medical Equipment Fair
www.bayern-international.de/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen/china-medical-equipment-fair-cmef-1509

May 20 – 23, 2015 | The Hague, The Netherlands
7th international symposium on the diabetic foot
www.diabeticfoot.nl

Imprint

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