



Fig. S1. PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) flow diagram. A PRISMA flow diagram depicts the flow of information through the different phases of a systematic review. It maps out the number of records identified, included and excluded, and the reasons for exclusion (15). Inclusion criteria were: papers referring to venous ulcers, arterial ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers or pressure ulcers; cross-sectional or prospective cohort studies; published from 2000 to 2015, in English. Exclusion criteria were: wounds secondary to surgical procedures, malignancies, chronic inflammatory diseases, infections, or burns; specific subsets of population (terminally ill patients, spinal cord injury patients, patients in special care units); randomized controlled trials, case-control studies, case reports, editorials, abstracts, conference proceedings; ulcers with mixed aetiologies.