

## Knowledge and Library Services Case Study

### ***Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Library and Knowledge Services: Effectiveness and use of Sodium Hydroxide as matricectomy in nail surgery.***

Date 02/11/2022

#### Reason for enquiry

Matricectomy is a routine procedure for treating patients with ingrown toenails. The practice is undertaken by specialist podiatrists who use chemicals, surgery or cryotherapy to selectively destroy part or remove the entire nail bed, which results in permanent nail loss. The community podiatry team use Phenol as matricectomy after the nail is removed to stop it regrowing and wanted to know the evidence for using Sodium Hydroxide as an effective alternative.

#### What the knowledge and library specialist did

The Specialist Podiatrist from the community podiatry team requested an evidence search by completing the online form on the library website. The librarian carried out a search using MEDLINE and CINAHL databases which found relevant references. The search results were imported into a template to assist the Specialist Podiatrist review the evidence-base.

### Impact of input from the library and knowledge service

The search results confirmed the effectiveness of Sodium Hydroxide as matricectomy in nail surgery and informed the evidence-based practice of the community podiatry team.

#### Immediate Impact

*“We have changed the nail surgery procedure in community podiatry, from using Phenol to Sodium Hydroxide NaOH, which has saved money for the Trust. We have collaborated with our podiatry colleagues down in Devon and disseminated learning back to the wider community podiatry team. We are currently monitoring the use and effects of NaOH and should have results in the next 12 months.”*

## **Probable future Impact**

*“We shall have confidence in using the library resources when looking into different practices and have more confidence in the ability to research and change practices based on evidence.”*

## **Name and Job Title:**

Mrs Sarah Twiss, Specialist Podiatrist, Community Podiatry

**For further information on how you can get similar support contact your local NHS library and knowledge service.**

## Submission Details

*[To be completed by Knowledge and Library Service at the point of submission]*

### Name of Organisation

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

### Knowledge and Library Service Contact Email:

[wht.library.service@nhs.net](mailto:wht.library.service@nhs.net)

### Title of Case Study

Effectiveness and use of Sodium Hydroxide as matricectomy in nail surgery.

### NHS Region *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

East of England

London

**Midlands**

North East and Yorkshire

North West

South East

South West

### Sector *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Acute

**Acute and community**

Care Trust

Clinical Commissioning Group

Commissioning Support

Community Trust

Cross-sector

Local Education and Training Board

Mental Health

Mental Health / Learning Disability

Mental Health / Social Care

Primary Care

Public Health

Shared Service / Informatics

Special HA

Other. If other, please specify

### Group Impacted *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

Additional Clinical Services  
Administrative and Clerical  
**Allied Health Professionals**  
Estates and Ancillary  
Healthcare Scientists  
Medicine and Dental  
Multiprofessional  
Patients, Carers and the Public  
Nursing and Midwifery  
Scientific and Technical  
Students

**Impact Types** *[Make bold any of the impact types below which apply]*

**Contributed to personal or professional development**

**Contributed to service development or delivery**

**Facilitated collaborative working**

Health Information for Patients, Carers and the Public

**Improved the quality of patient care**

**Mobilising evidence and organisational knowledge**

**More informed decision making**

**Productivity and efficiency**

**Reduced risk or improved safety**

**Saved money or contributed to financial effectiveness**

Improved health and wellbeing of staff and learners

### **Consent**

I have consent from individuals referred to in this case study to share details nationally for advocacy and promotion. *[Make bold the option which applies:]*

**Yes**

No