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Treatment of diabetic foot ulcers by a non-amovible windowed fiberglass cast without opening until healing: A prospective study of 177 cases  
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Objective.– Evaluation of the rate of healing of chronic and deep diabetic foot ulcers (DFU) by a windowed fiber glass cast (WFC) without opening the cast until healing.

Methods.– A prospective non-randomised study of 177 diabetic foot ulcers treated by a non-amovible windowed fiber glass cast. Patients were followed until complete healing.

Results.– Duration of the ulcers: 604 ± 808 days (64% more than 6 months). Average surface was 4.6 ± 6.5 mm² and depth: 10.4 ± 10.8 mm. The time of wearing of the WFC was 92.7 days ± 90.1. The healing rate was 83.6%. The duration of treatment by WFC was 96 days. Twenty-nine patients did not heal (16.4%). The inclusion of 21 patients with moderate peripheral vascular disease (12%) and 24 patients after osteotomy (14%) did not modify significantly the healing rate: respectively of 81% (P = 0.970) and 70.8%, (P = 0.128). Complications: 26 changed WFC, 14 ulcers with moderate infection. The amputation rate of toes was 2% without major amputation and phlebothrombosis. Treatment of of DFU (even chronic and deep) by a WFC without opening the cast gives an excellent healing rate.

Conclusion.– The importance of off-loading the treatment of DFU is well confirmed by this study.

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