**DESCRIPTION**

| Title of the study | Observational controlled study on the effectiveness and tolerance of the AXTAIR AUTOMORPHO mattress in helping to prevent decubitus ulcers in the home care environment. |
| Type of study | Prospective, non-interventional, observational, and controlled Clinical Study. |
| Date of study | June 2005 to June 2006 |
| Context and place of study | Study carried out by the Réseau Ville Hôpital Plaies et Cicatrisations du Languedoc Roussillon (Languedoc Roussillon Community Hospital Network, Wounds and Healing). Home care / EHPAD balance: 20/80. |

**METHOD**

| Aim | Assess the improvement in the service expected from the AXTAIR AUTOMORPHO motorised air support, integrated into the care strategy on help in preventing and/or treating bedsores implemented as part of homecare; Determine its suitability in the homecare and institutional environments. |
| Main objective | Affirm tolerance of the AXTAIR AUTOMORPHO support by patients and carers, and the improvement in quality of life of the person cared for (comparing the operation of an automatic compressor versus a manual compressor). |
| Main judgement criteria | Tolerance: ergonomics, safety, environmental compatibility. Perception of Comfort and Wellbeing transposed to assessing Quality of Life. |
| Secondary objective | Assess the contribution to maintaining or improving the skin condition of persons with reduced mobility presenting an assessed risk of bedsores linked to disturbances to their state of health or constituted bedsores. |
| Secondary judgement criteria | Maintaining and/or improving skin condition. |
| Criteria for inclusion | Adults, young people until they are “grown up”, presenting a medium to high risk of developing a bedsore whilst lying down, measured on the validated Norton scale, monitored by Home Care, receiving palliative care, or admitted to an EHPAD (Accommodation Establishment for Dependant Elderly People); persons who are bed-ridden for more than 15 hours; persons with one or more bedsores in the support area and unable to move alone, subject to clinical judgement. |
| Criteria for exclusion | Patients who weigh more than 135 kg. Patients who are confined to bed, who are physically incapable of moving alone, who are not assisted by a helper, who have several bedsores in the support area, and for whom the clinical benefit of the product has not been assessed against a therapeutic alternative. |
| Sample size | 38 |
| Randomisation method | Not applicable |
| Method of analysing the results | Descriptive analysis. |

**RESULTS**

| Number of subjects analysed | 34 |
| Duration of monitoring | 32 days |

**Patient characteristics**

- Sex ratio W/M: 2.77
- Average age: 80 years (40 ; 105)
- Average weight: 56 kg (29 ; 110)
- Average height: 1.63 m (1.45 ; 1.80)
- Initial average BMI: 20.82 (11.72 ; 30.86)
- Distribution of patients by pathology: pathology of aging (7), neurology (5), cancerology (5), cardio-vascular (1), pneumology (1), dermatology (8), ortho-traumatology (3)
- Pathologies or related states identified: cases of malnutrition [19], diabetics with peripheral neuropathy (6), cases of obliterating arteriosclerosis of the lower limbs (9), cases of respiratory insufficiency, (3), cases of neuro-degeneration (8), cases of associated cardiac insufficiency (8), cases of cognitive deficiency (9).
- Average initial Norton score: 8.19 (5 ; 12)
- Total number of bedsores: 74
- Location of bedsores: 41% sacrum (30), 27% heels (20), 32% others (24)
- Seriousness of bedsores: 8% stage 1 (6), 15% stage 2 (11), 31% stage 3 (23), 36% stage 4 (27), 9% NR (7)

**Characteristics relating to professional practices**

- Average period spent bed-ridden: 20 ± 3.9 hours (10 ; 24)
- Average position of bed-ridden persons (hours / day): half-sitting 1 hour, contra-lateral supine position 1 hour, sitting 3 hours
- Average time sitting in a seat (persons raised at least once per day): 4 hours / day
- Average daily number of times turned over: 4

**Results inherent in the main judgement criteria**

- Level of tolerance by criteria: level of satisfaction
  - Effectiveness: 94.22%
  - Compatibility with care actions: 90.08%
  - Safety: 87.77%
  - User interface: 84.58%
  - How easy the product is to install: 83.66%
Ergonomics: 84.33%
Level of quality of life estimated by patients: level of satisfaction
Comfort: 9.11 / 10
Wellbeing 8.70 / 10

Results inherent in the secondary judgement criteria
Average Norton score: 8.00 (5 ; 12)
Total number of bedsores: 44
Location of bedsores: 45.5% sacrum (20), 20.5% heels (9), 34% others (15)
Seriousness of bedsores: 14% stage 1 (6), 23% stage 2 (10), 34% stage 3 (15), 20% stage 4 (9), 9% NR (4)
Notes:
- Reduction in the number of times turned over from the 3rd day of the study
- Turning over maintained for 2 patients (4 times / day): 1 woman aged 95 with loss of independence, and 1 man aged 75 with a neuro-degenerative pathology.

Secondary effects
None. Bed sore-prevention care was carried out at the same time as a validated medical protocol.

CONCLUSION
The study carried out as part of care in the home enabled, by the gathering of periodic data, to bring out the usefulness of the AXTAIR AUTOMORPHO motorised air support as part of a care strategy for preventing and treating bedsores. Tolerance levels were judged to be satisfactory to very satisfactory, with a 94% rate for effectiveness in helping with care, 90% for compatibility with care actions, 88% for safety, 85% for the user interface, and 84% for ergonomics. Assessing quality of life by means of criteria based on comfort and wellbeing is estimated at 8.85 ([1 < 10], with an initial Comfort / Wellbeing ratio of 1, and 1.02 at the end of the study. Monitoring using photographs and / or a colour scale and / or a digital scale allowed the highlighting of the contribution made by the support in improving the lesion environment. When included in the care provided to people with high risk of bedsores and / or constituted bedsores, the motorised air support contributed very favourably to improving the state of the wound and to the general state of the persons receiving care.

The level of tolerance for the AXTAIR AUTOMORPHO motorised air support is compatible with the service expected of the home-care facility. The automatic system was judged superior to the manual one with regard to difficulties in measuring the person’s weight. The support’s technical performance is of particular help in healing constituted bedsores of up to stage 4. The quality of life for most of the persons receiving care was improved.