WUWHS 2026
WORLD UNION of WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES
Global Paradigm Shift: Wound Care Specialty & Recognition
23rd - 27th SEPTEMBER 2026
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Organised by

Abstract ID: #221

Author
INGA HOFFMANN-TISCHNER
B.Sc. Applied Nursing Science

Supervisor of bachelor thesis
ANDREA SCHIFF
Professor of Nursing Science

katho
Katholische Hochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen
Catholic University of Applied Sciences

For more information

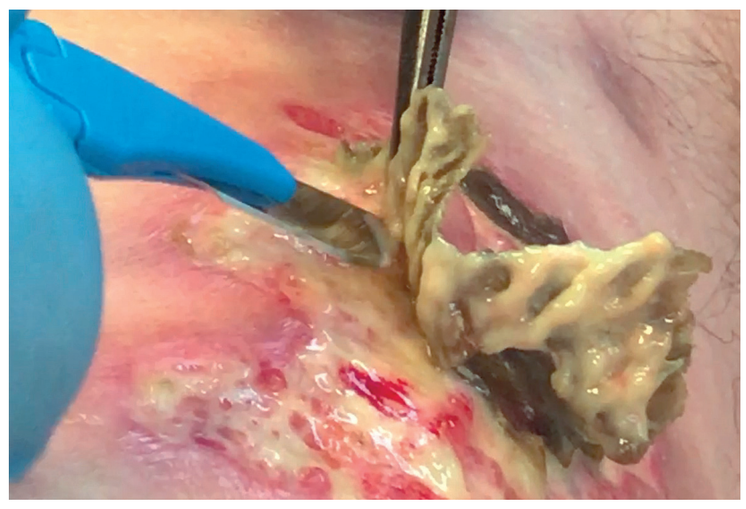
Safety and Feasibility of Bleeding during Sharp Debridement by Specialized Nurses: An Exploratory Study from Germany

1 PROBLEM STATEMENT & BACKGROUND

Prevalence: An estimated 0.9 to 2.7 million people in Germany suffer from chronic wounds.

Barriers to healing: Exudates such as necrotic tissue, fibrin, and biofilm require thorough debridement.

Current Situation: Sharp debridement is considered effective; however, in Germany, it is typically **a procedure delegated by physicians,** whereas in some countries internationally, it is already within **the autonomous scope of practice** of specialized nursing professionals.



2 RESEARCH QUESTION

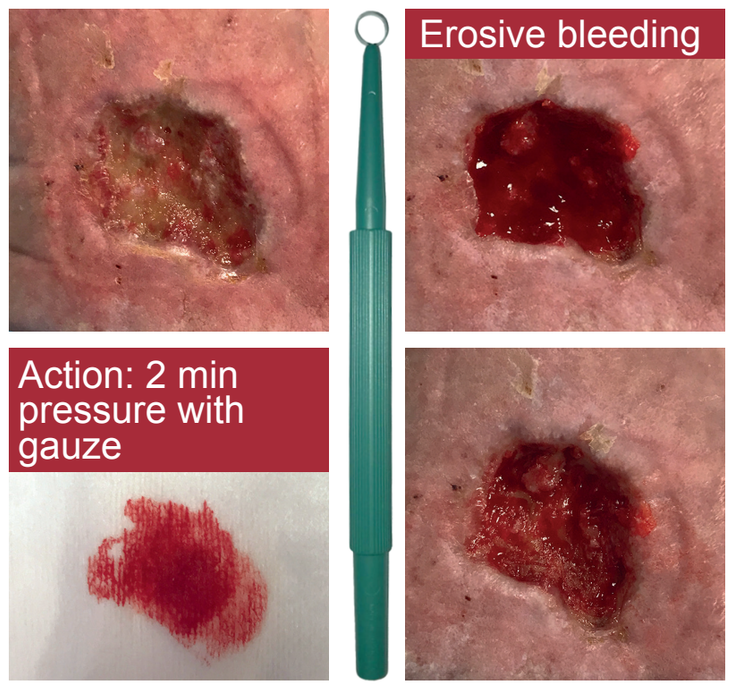
Can bleeding following sharp debridement performed by wound-specialized nurses in a nursing facility be safely managed?

3 METHODOLOGY

Two-stage research design:

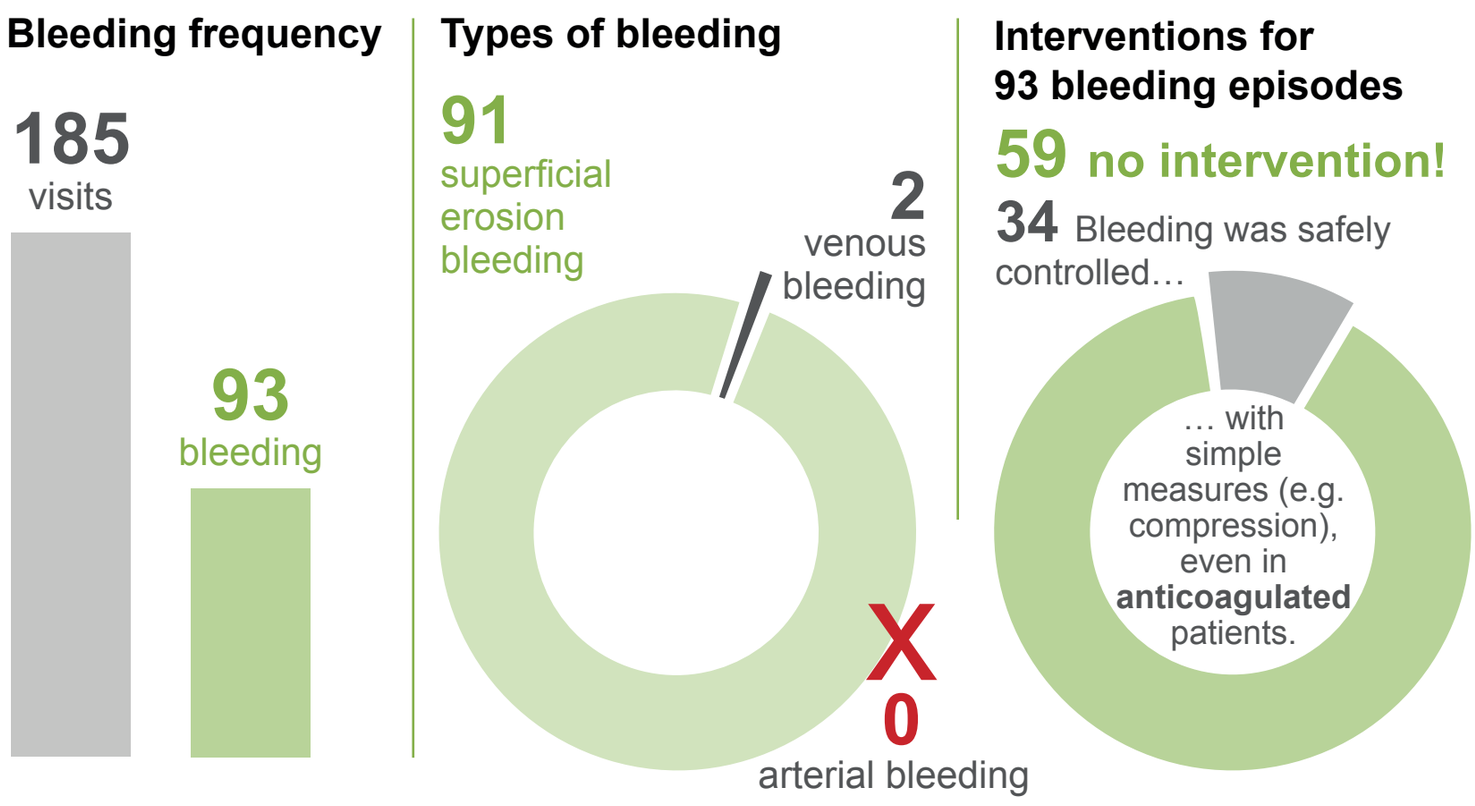
3.1 Systematic literature review: Search in PubMed and Cochrane Library.

3.2 Empirical observational study: Twelve-month study in a specialized nursing wound center (Wundmanagement Aachen).
Sample: n = 47 patients.
Data collection: clinical parameters (bleeding risk, type, severity, interventions, wound size).
Ethics: The empirical data collection on sharp debridement is registered under reference number 2025205 with the Ethics Committee of the North Rhine Medical Association.



4 RESULTS

4.1 Primary Endpoints:
To date, there are no worldwide data in the aforementioned databases regarding the frequency of bleeding or other complications following sharp debridement. Fifty patients were approached; three declined participation or were excluded because of a language barrier. The study population consisted of 27 men and 20 women. The median age of the patients was 71 years, and the median duration of the wounds was 13 months. The evaluation of 185 documented applications demonstrates a high level of safety.



Wound Diagnoses	n
Venous leg ulcer	13
Arteriovenous leg ulcer	11
Diabetic foot ulcer	7
Lymphatic leg ulcer	5
Pressure ulcer	4
PAD-associated wound	3
Second-degree burn (older than 1 year)	1
Excoriations (older than 1 year)	1
Postoperative wound healing disorder	1
Recurrent ulcerated lymph node metastasis	1

Grouping of Risk Groups

0	without medication that affects blood clotting (reference group)
1	Use of antiplatelet agents
2	Treatment with anticoagulants
3	Combination therapy using both classes of drugs

Bleeding that has occurred

Riskgroup	Visits	No bleeding	Erosional bleeding	Venous bleeding	Arterial bleeding
0 (n=18)	77	29	46	2	0
1 (n=13)	46	26	20	0	0
2 (n=14	52	31	21	0	0
3 (n=2)	10	6	4	0	0

4.2 Secondary Endpoints

4.2.1 A significant reduction in wound size was observed **(paired t-test, $p < 0.001$, $\alpha = 0.05$)**, assuming normality according to the Central Limit Theorem.

4.2.2 Participants reported very high trust in the wound care center **(median: 10, maximum score: 10)** visual analog scale (VAS).

5 DISCUSSION & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- **Diffusion theory (according to Rogers):**
  Sharp debridement is regarded as an “innovation” in the nursing competency profile, which is currently undergoing a transformation process from delegation to autonomy.
- **Expertise:**
  The proof of concept demonstrates that the procedure can be performed safely by qualified professionals and serves as a solid foundation for defining the scope of practice for sharp debridement performed by wound-specialized nurses.

6 CONCLUSION

Sharp debridement performed by qualified specialized nurses is a safe intervention. The results demonstrate that complications can be managed safely and support the integration of this procedure into the autonomous scope of practice of specialized nurses.