

Heelift® Suspension Boot Performance Evaluation

Since September 1993, DM Systems Inc., maker of Heelift® Suspension Boot, solicited product evaluations from health professionals. This latest survey features the response of those who evaluated the boot from 1999 to July 2001. Product evaluations thus far confirm that the Heelift® boot is a high-performance prevention and treatment device.

85% of respondents said Heelift® worked better than their current pressure relief device!

THE RESULTS ARE IN

Since the national introduction of the Heelift® Suspension Boot, a pressure-relief device for heel sore prevention and treatment, DM Systems Inc. continues to receive feedback from professionals. Two hundred and thirty eight healthcare professionals volunteered to participate in a product evaluation. Results continue to show strong support for the Heelift® boot. In fact, when asked if they plan to recommend it as part of their heel sore prevention and treatment regimen, 83% of those individuals who responded said, “Yes!”

Read on...

THE STUDY

DM Systems provided a limited number of Heelift® boots to professionals: nurses, physicians, physical therapists and the like. These individuals were asked to conduct a product evaluation with the assistance of a standardized questionnaire and feedback from the affected patient. Instructions on the

form recommended evaluating the boot for prevention or treatment of heel sores for a minimum period of ten days. Participants in the study were instructed to evaluate design, benefits and features. There was also a section that asked evaluators to compare the Heelift® boot to their current prevention/treatment products, and to indicate if they would recommend it for use at their facility.

Heelift® boot attributes were evaluated after 185 of the responding participants applied it to actual patients for heel pressure sore treatment. Most of the patients were age 75 years or older and 75% had stage II or stage III ulcers. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = poor, 3 = good and 5 = excellent, nearly all respondents scored Heelift® boot characteristics good to excellent (Figure 2.). In addition, when asked to compare the Heelift® boot to their current heel sore treatment product(s), 87% indicated that Heelift® is better.

(continued)

Figure 1 Evaluation of Product Characteristics

	% OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS PER RATING				
	Excellent v.	iv	Good iii.	ii.	Poor i.
Design	32%	42%	19%	3%	0%
Construction	32	37	24	3	0
Accommodates all sizes	26	33	25	7	2
Ease of application	43	32	17	4	0
Texture	33	39	18	5	2

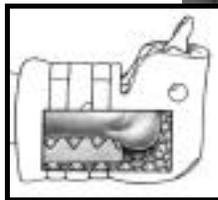
Figure 2 Evaluation of Heelift® Boot as an Aid to Heel Sore Treatment

	% OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS PER RATING					
	Excellent v.	iv.	Good iii.	ii.	Poor i.	No Answer*
Overall comfort	17%	37%	18%	4%	2%	20%
Feel of material against skin	11	38	18	6	1	23
Ease of patient removal	23	25	16	4	1	31
Heel pressure relief	36	36	11	2	0	12
Ease of patient movement	13	33	28	7	3	19
Doesn't promote heat buildup	14	35	18	7	2	19
Stays in position	22	37	24	5	2	10
Accommodates wound dressing	30	36	14	2	1	14

*Percentage of patients unable to respond

The Heelift® Suspension Boot was also evaluated as a heel sore prevention device.

Over one third (82) of the respondents evaluated the Heelift® boot for heel sore prevention on high risk patients. Most of the patients were 75 years of age or older and were characterized as very limited mobility to completely immobile.



Certain product attributes and benefits were evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = poor, 3 = good, and 5 = excellent. Most respondents rated the Heelift® boot good to excellent (Figure 3). When asked to compare the Heelift® boot to their current heel sore prevention product(s), 78% of respondents indicated the Heelift® boot is better.

Stay Tuned

In 1999, we asked you to stay tuned for product enhancements. When you spoke, we listened. We beveled the interior elevation pad and padded the velcro straps in the original convoluted Heelift®, and in September of 2000, we announced a Heelift® Suspension Boot with a smooth interior. Constructed to the same specifications as the original convoluted interior, the smooth interior benefits patients with

edematous legs by eliminating the possibility of pressure dimples on the skin.

The smooth interior Heelift® is to be used for prevention and treatment of heel ulcers as well as for foot drop, flaccid paralysis (non-spastic), pre-and post operative hip fractures and skin grafts.

DM Systems, Inc., wishes to express its gratitude to all of the medical professionals who took the time to answer our questionnaire and evaluate the Heelift®. The information gathered from these evaluations is being put to good use. In addition to confirming product strengths and customer satisfaction, DM Systems is constantly reviewing suggestions for product enhancement.

If you would like additional information about the Heelift® or any of our products, call (800) 254-5438 or visit the DM Systems web site at www.dmsystems.com. We can also be reached through e-mail at info@dmsystems.com.

Figure 3 Evaluation of Heelift® Boot as an Aid to Heel Sore Prevention

	% OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS PER RATING					
	Excellent v.	iv.	Good iii.	ii.	Poor i.	No Answer*
Overall comfort	16%	37%	16%	6%	0%	17%
Feel of material against skin	9	41	23	2	0	17
Ease of patient removal	21	29	12	6	1	24
Heel pressure relief	45	26	7	1	0	12
Ease of patient movement	11	35	16	2	6	18
Doesn't promote heat buildup	11	28	21	13	1	15
Stays in position	20	28	29	2	2	9
Reduces friction	21	35	18	2	0	12

*Percentage of patients unable to respond

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