



# LAUTECH JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. 10, JANUARY, 2022

ISSN 2659-1405



**PROF. M. O. LIASU**  
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*A Publication of the Faculty of Nursing Sciences,  
College of Health Sciences,  
Ladokpe Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Nigeria*

**Impact Factor Value of 0.861 based on International Citation Report for year 2020/2021**

**10TH EDITION  
LAUTECH JOURNAL  
OF NURSING**

**A Publication of the Faculty of Nursing Sciences,  
College of Health Sciences,  
Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria**

**VOLUME 10, JANUARY, 2022**

**ISSN 2659-1405**

10th Edition LAUTECH Journal of Nursing (LJN)

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ISSN 2659-1405

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VOLUME 10, JANUARY, 2022

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**Printed and published in Nigeria by**

Estom Printers

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2. The LJN has the tripartite mission of:
  - (a) Promoting a culture of excellence in Nursing Research.
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3. The Journal will accordingly encourage the publication of the following categories of papers.
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4. LJN is published biannually in any area of nursing interest or relevant to needs of academics and practitioners.

In this volume, sixteen (16) manuscripts scale through the eye of the needle of the Editor-in Chief. The title of the papers in this edition are: Evaluation of Nurses' Actions and Opinion on Pain Assessment of Hospitalised Patients; Ultraviolet Radiation on Gunshot Wounds: Clinical Case Reports; Assessment of Knowledge and Compliance with Coronavirus Protocols Among Healthcare Professionals; Availability of Essential Components of Maternal Healthcare in Health Institutions; Factors Associated with Overweight and Obesity among Adolescents; Health-Seeking Behaviours, of Women Presenting with Advanced Stages of Breast Cancer: Sociocultural Beliefs and Practices on Placenta Disposal and Processing among Multiparous Women; Parental Control, Social Media Utilisation And Risky Sexual Behaviour Among Adolescents; Assessment of Nosocomial Infection Preventive Measures Utilized by Clinician Nurses in Intensive Care Unit; Alternative Medicine Use and its Perceived Effectiveness in Management of Hypertension; Assessment of Modern Contraceptives Uptake among Women of Reproductive Age; Community Health Extension Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants' Neonatal Resuscitation Practices of Babies Born with Asphyxia; Midwives' Current Screening Practice of Intimate Partner Violence among Pregnant Women in Northern Nigeria; Assessment of Cancer Patients' Quality of Life; Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of School Health Program among Secondary School Teachers and Traditional Birth Attendants' Knowledge of First-Aid Management and Skills of Selected Labour Emergencies in Ogbomosho, Oyo State, Nigeria: an Intervention Study.

## **EDITORIAL DESK**

Welcome to LAUTECH Journal of Nursing!

LAUTECH Journal of Nursing focuses on but not limited to research findings in the different areas of nursing: Nursing Care, Nursing Education, Medical Surgical Nursing, Maternal and Child Health Nursing, Community Public Health Nursing, and Psychiatric/Mental Nursing. This journal is published to promote quality scholarly writing and hence instigating and generating vibrant discourse in the different areas of nursing. Apart from providing an outlet for publications of research findings, it offers opportunities for professionals and students to disseminate their views or position on topical issues and emerging theories within the scope of the journal. The Journal is peer reviewed by seasoned scholar. Six-three authors have contributed in one way or the other to the tenth edition of the journal.

In this regard, the journal welcomes articles from individuals and corporate organisations for the ninth edition. Interested contributors may forward copy of their manuscript; computer-typed in double line spacing, using Times New Roman 12 point font, with abstract not more than 250 words on a separate page. Manuscript should not be more than 15 pages and sent to [doctoradeyemo@yahoo.com](mailto:doctoradeyemo@yahoo.com) or [lautechjournal@gmail.com](mailto:lautechjournal@gmail.com).

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# ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION ON GUNSHOT WOUNDS: CLINICAL CASE REPORTS

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## ABSTRACT

*Wound care is benefitting from contemporary technological advancements one of which is the use of ultra violet therapy. This paper focuses on the use of ultra violet therapy. It seeks to ascertain the efficacy of Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) in the healing of gunshot wounds in a tertiary health facility in Northwest Nigeria, with a view to stimulate more interest in an integrated approach to wound management in our care environment. The case summaries are two patients with gunshot injuries selected from a Female Orthopaedic Ward of the hospital. Antibiotics and wound dressing were applied initially to the wounds of both patients and results showed that the management was less effective. Following a consult sent to the Physiotherapy Unit of the hospital, after due assessment, an ultra-violet therapy was introduced using a cold quartz UV generator. This therapy was performed following some specific steps. The Minimal Erythematous Dose (MED) was performed on the 1<sup>st</sup> session to determine the dosage level, using an erythemometer. Baseline measurements of the wounds were taken and documented. Patient 1 and Patient 2 had 14 and 12 treatment sessions respectively over a 4-week period. The wound dimensions were subsequently measured every week for four weeks and properly documented. There was a gradual but significant decrease in the size of the wounds for both Patients 1 and 2 within four weeks of commencement of the therapy. Surrounding skin remained intact. It is therefore recommended that UV therapy in the treatment of gunshot wounds in our locality has great potential for wound management and this can be further explored. More studies should be conducted to establish its place in wound management in our health facility. Clinicians should collaborate in this area to improve wound care and research.*

**Keywords: Gunshot Wounds; Wound Management; Ultraviolet Therapy.**

## INTRODUCTION

Wound care is a major component of medical care, often managed by a team of health professionals such as nurses, doctors, and physical therapists (physiotherapists). In recent times, there have been many recent technological advances in wound care among which is the light-based technology comprising a wide range of modalities. Wounds of different types have benefitted from such innovations and collaboration. Wounds that are heavily infected can be managed with use of UVC, while low-level laser (or light) therapy and photodynamic therapy both have such wide applications in wound care (Gupta, *et al.*, 2013). Ultraviolet (UV) radiation (200–280? nm) has been directly applied to the wounded tissue to stimulate wound healing, restore skin homeostasis and selectively inactivate micro-organisms (Gupta, *et al.*, 2013). Several reports indicate the efficacy of the use of UVR in the treatment and management of different types of wounds and ulcers. For example, the effective use of UVR in managing varying degrees of pressure ulcers has been established in Nigeria and elsewhere (Onigbinde, *et al.*, 2010; Nussbaum, 2013).

In other infected wounds, evidence abounds on the effectiveness of UVR in their treatments. Recently, Yarboro, *et al.*, (2019) reports the effect of UVR-C irradiation in treating chronic wounds and found that radiation therapy is a useful adjuvant therapy for chronic wounds. They report healing in 62.1% of venous wounds, and 76.7% diabetic foot ulcers. The efficacy of UVR in treating burn wounds with sepsis has also been reported. Exposure of the wounds for 6 – 8 hours daily for 8 days to ultraviolet phototherapy results in improvement in wound healing and sepsis significantly (Aleema, *et al.*, 2014). The effect on sepsis has been associated with elimination of various micro-organisms infecting wounds. The antimicrobial efficacy of UVR against certain bacteria has also been documented. Existing studies (Thai, *et al.*, 2002; Gupta, *et al.*, 2013; Onigbinde, *et al.*, 2010; Kaleshtari, *et al.*, 2015)

have reported the effectiveness of UVR against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Aleema, *et al.*, (2014) also reported its efficacy in burn wounds infected with MRSA.

The ultraviolet radiation has other application such as in the prevention of surgical site infections. Buonanno *et al.*, (2013) observe using UVR (207nm) effectively for surgical site infections control. They found that UVR kills bacteria efficiently without any significant cytotoxic or mutagenic effect to humans.

The use of ultraviolet (UV) radiation in traumatic wounds such as gunshot wounds (GSWs) could be of immense benefits just like its use in many infected wounds. Gunshot wounds are caused by firearms, one of the most destructive and readily available weapons in modern society (Itodo, *et al.*, 2015). Ogunlusi, *et al.*, (2006) opines that the incident of civilian gunshot injuries and their ensuing fatalities have been on the increase worldwide, with the burden of firearms violence being borne more by the most productive segment of the society, that is, those aged between 16-45years (Odatuwa-Omagbemi, *et al.*, 2013). Relative to other weapons, guns tend to be associated with greater long term physical sequel resulting in suffering, wound, and disfigurement disability as in the case of our two patients in these case reports. This makes GSWs quite life threatening especially when they are to the head, chest, abdomen and the spine (Ogunlusi, *et al.*, 2006). These have led to grave complications such as hypovolemia, hemorrhagic shock, sepsis and paralysis/ paresis (Onuminya, *et al.*, 2005).

The most common sites of gunshot injuries are the extremities, usually accompanied by fractures and soft tissue damage, requiring debridement, sterile dressing and surgery usually closed by primary or secondary intention. In many situations, these modalities have not brought about effective wound healing in GSWs (Onuminya, *et al.*, 2005), necessitating other interventions.

This study consists of observations made on two patients brought to the study setting whose wounds failed to heal after several weeks of care, despite daily wound dressing and antibiotic therapy. Following a consult sent to the Physiotherapy Unit of the hospital, an ultra-violet therapy was added to the wound. These case reports are therefore presented to disseminate findings on the effect of

the UVR therapy in the healing of the gunshot wounds in a tertiary health facility in northwest Nigeria, with a viewing to stimulating more interest in this mode of wound management in our environment.

## Objectives of the study

## METHODOLOGY

**Design:** A quasi-experimental clinical case report, involving the use of UVR on gunshot wounds of two patients.

**Setting:** The two cases were obtained from the Female Orthopedic Ward of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Shika-Zaria, North-west Nigeria. ABUTH is a 500-bedded, federal-owned tertiary and a referral hospital where cases beyond the primary and secondary health facilities are being referred to for expert management. Located along the Zaria-Funtua road in Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State, North West Nigeria, the hospital is mandated to train all categories of healthcare professionals at all levels, provide diverse in- and out-patient specialised health services to all people from the catchment area and the Nigeria at large, and conduct clinical and health-related researches. Among the specialized services are the physiotherapy services where ultraviolet rays are used to treat a variety of disorders including wounds.

**Participant selection:** This clinical case report focused only purposively selected patients with gunshot injuries with the period of the study. The only two patients available for the period were all included for the study

**Instruments for data collection:** Ultraviolet therapy using A Cold Quartz UV generator with Minimal Erythematous Dose (MED), using an erythemometer.

**Validity:** The instrument has been validated for clinical use by the Physiotherapy Unit of the hospital

**Reliability:** It is reliability established by the Physiotherapy Unit of the hospital

A measuring tape was also used to determine size of wounds over the period of the therapy.

**Procedure for data collection:** The two participants were on antibiotics therapy, and patients' wounds were being dressed daily with honey but with little response. A consult was then sent to the Physiotherapy Unit, requesting for UV therapy. The Patients were then started on UV radiation therapy.

Patients gave their informed consents to the case reporting. The Head of Department had earlier given permission to undertake the case report, since some of the authors were part of the clinical service providers within the Department.

### Patient 1

A 21-year old female patient admitted through Accident and Emergency Department of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria in December 2015. The patient was later transferred to the Female Orthopaedic Ward for comminuted fracture of the left radial bone associated with open wound on the left forearm secondary to gunshot to the left upper limb. The left upper limb was placed in an elbow cast and a sling. The initial measurement of the wound surface area was 14cm by 6.5cm on the posterior and 14cm by 3cm on the anterior aspect of the forearm (see Table 1).

### Patient 2

An 18-year old female patient admitted through Accident and Emergency Department of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria in December 2015. Patient was later transferred to Female Orthopaedic Ward for comminuted fracture of the left tibia bone associated with open wound on the left leg secondary to gunshot. The left leg was placed in an above knee cast with a window on the anterior aspect of the leg. The initial measurement of the wound surface area was 15.4cm by 7.5cm (see Table 1).

### Procedure:

A cold quartz UV generator was used. The Minimal Erythral Dose (MED) was performed on the 1<sup>st</sup> session to determine the dosage level, using an erythemometer. The method of determining the MED involved the following steps:

- 1) The use of erythemometer that was cut in about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches of holes of various shapes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches apart.

- 2) The area to be tested should not be previously exposed to UVR such as the inner part of the thigh or inner part of the arm
- 3) The erythemometer was taped to the area to be tested
- 4) The other part of the body was covered except the area where the erythemometer was placed.
- 5) The UVR lamp was positioned perpendicular to the exposed area about 2-3 inches away.
- 6) When the generator was ready, the 1<sup>st</sup> hole was turned on and exposed for 15seconds and then other holes at 15 seconds interval for a total of 60 seconds.
- 7) The generator/lamp was turned off when the 60 seconds was up.
- 8) The patients were instructed to check the area every 2 hours while awake.
- 9) The area which appeared first with the highest pink colour was recorded.
- 10) The 1<sup>st</sup> hole 60 seconds, 2<sup>nd</sup> 45seconds, 3<sup>rd</sup> 30 seconds and 4<sup>th</sup> 15 seconds

*Dose:* The minimal erythral dose (MED) (E1) appears to be mildly pink and takes 6-8 hours to develop but just visible at about 24 hours/less. E2 DOSE (2.5 x MED) appears definite pink red that blanches on pressure. It takes 4-6 hours to develop and last for as long as 48 hours. E3 (5 x MED) appears very red and does not blanch on pressure. It takes 2-4 hours to develop and last for as long as 72 hours. E4 DOSE (10 x MED). It appears angry red and takes less than 2 hours to develop and last for up to a week (Sreeraj, n.d).

The E1 DOSE was used on both patients, Patient 1 was exposed for 60 seconds while Patient 2 was exposed for 45 seconds

### The UVR therapy

Both patients were given a test dose prior to commencement of the treatment and minimal erythral (MED) dose was determined. The MED used for both patients was the E1 dose. They were on alternate days of wound dressing and treatment of the wound area was carried out after exposure and cleaning of the wound area. For Patient 1, the wounds were exposed for 60 seconds while Patient 2 wound was exposed for 45 seconds.

**Research question one**

What is the perception of respondents about cervical screening?

As presented in Table 2, majority (72.9%) of respondents agree that maintaining only one sex partner may still warrant cervical screening. (89.2%) agree that maintaining good genital hygiene still need regular cervical screening. (76.8%) agree that subjecting self for cervical screening is not degrading and reduces self-worth and dignity of a woman. (70%) agree that cervical screening should be made compulsory for all female nurses and other female health workers. (49.6%) agree that their privacy is not encroached during the screening, (71.6%) agree that Nurses are at risk of cervical cancer because of their knowledge

about it. (64%) agree that cervical screening is expensive and not affordable for nurses. (44%) disagree that a healthy woman without symptoms still need cervical screening. (45.6%) agree that most nurses are afraid of pain and discomfort associated with the screening, thus, may not be willing to go for it (82%) agree that most women be willing to go for cervical screening even if they have no symptoms indicating abnormalities. (76%) agree that uptake of cervical screening may not be necessary when there is no manifestation of symptoms. (87%) agree that regular cervical screening will help in the reduction of cervical cancer. The findings of this study conclude that respondents' perception (59%) about cervical screening is positive.

**Table1: Results of the Wound Healing for Patients 1 and 2**

Patient	Initial	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week
1	Ant: 14cmx3cm Post: 14cmx8cm	10.8cmx2.7cm	8.7cmx2cm	7.5cmx1.5cm	6.2cmx1.0cm
2	15.4cmx7.5cm	12.5cmx5.8cm	13.5cmx8cm	12cmx5.9cm	11.0cmx3.8cm

Similarly, from Table 1, Patient 2, it is shown that the initial wound surface area of 15.4cm x 7.5cm reduced to 11.0cm x 3.8cm in four weeks. These decreases are shown in Figure 2.

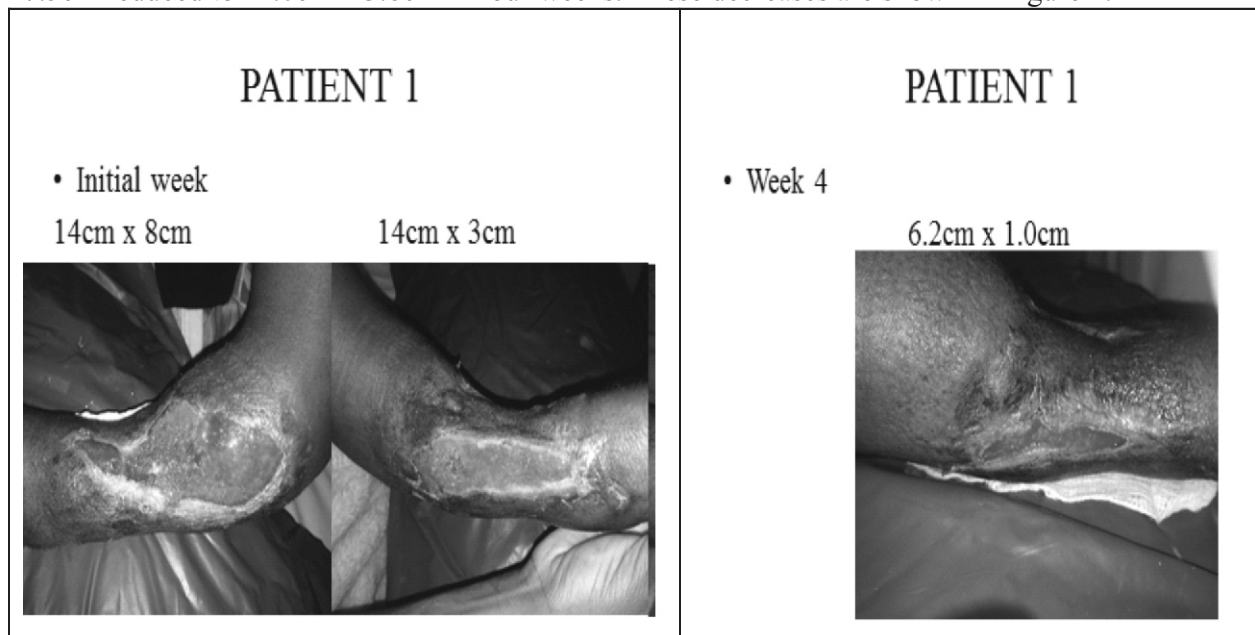
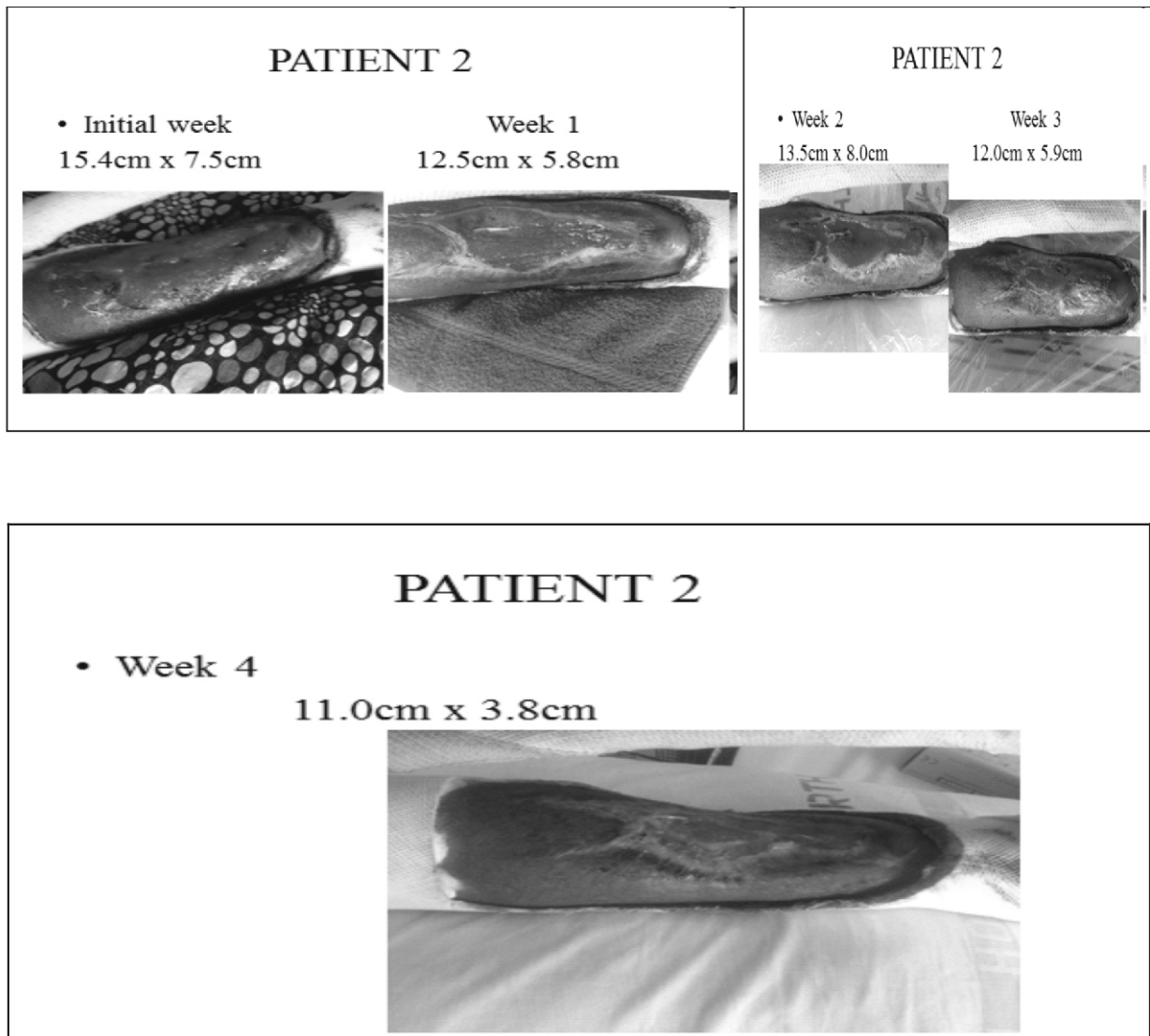


Fig. 1: Patient 1 wounds at commencement and 4 weeks later



**Fig. 1: Patient 2 wounds at commencement to 4 weeks (Weeks 1-4)**

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

This study shows the effectiveness of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) on gunshot wounds: clinical case reports in a tertiary health facility in Northwest Nigeria. Two patients were selected for this study from female orthopaedic ward. The initial therapeutic regimens used for the treatment of gunshot wounds on these participants are wound dressing with honey and antibiotics. Findings reveals that the initial therapeutic regimen used on the participants is less effective.

An ultra-violet therapy was introduced using a cold quartz UV generator. This therapy was performed following some specific steps. The Minimal

Erythematous Dose (MED) was performed on the 1<sup>st</sup> session to determine the dosage level, using an erythrometer. Baseline measurements of the wounds were taken and documented. Patient 1 and Patient 2 had 14 and 12 treatment sessions respectively over a 4-week period. The wound dimensions were subsequently measured every week for four weeks and these were also noted. There was a gradual but significant decrease in the size of the wounds for both Patients 1 and 2 within four weeks of commencement of the therapy. Surrounding skin remained intact.

The result of this experiment shows that the wound of Patient 1 and 2 have healed significantly after four



weeks of UVR. This study is in line with previous studies by Onigbinde *et al.*, 2010; Nussbaum, *et al.*, 2013; Yarboro, *et al.*, 2019 who confirm the efficacy of UVR in pressure ulcers and chronic wounds, including venous and diabetic foot ulcers. As reported by Onigbinde *et al.*, 2010 (also in Nigeria for pressure ulcers), gunshot wounds reduce in surface area and wound volume with the application of UVR. This study reveals that gunshot wounds heal significantly in four weeks (about 30 days) in term of the duration of treatment. This study supports Yarboro et al (2019) who report an average of 45 days (range 4 – 260 days) while using UVR to successfully treat venous, diabetic foot and traumatic wounds including chronic ulcers. Although no previous study is accessed during the literature review on gunshot wounds, but Parrish (2002) and Gupta, *et al.*, (2013) observe that UVR wound healing and antimicrobial effects appear to have similar biological explanations. To promote wound healing, UVR is absorbed by extracellular fluids components and capillaries which promotes endothelial cell proliferation and induce expression of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) Guo and DiPietro, (2010) and Feily, (2016) report that UVR initiates proliferation and maturation involving erythema, epidermal hyperplasia, increase blood flow in microcirculation and bactericidal effect.

Result of this study also reveals that the dose of the UVR used on the two participants did not show any damage to the skin. This study concur with Buonanno, et al. (2013) who observe that Ultraviolet (UV) radiation (200–280? nm) has been directly applied to the wounded tissue to stimulate wound healing, restore skin homeostasis and selectively inactivate micro-organisms (Gupta, *et al.*, 2013). This study does not support Feily (2016) who believe that the safety profile of UVR has been an issue of caution. This study also is not in agreement with Kaleshtari, et al., (2015), in carrying out the therapy on patients, the doses (wavelength) are carefully measured against the time of exposure, energy emitted, and other precautions. The two patients heal up without any damage to their skin and at the two weeks after discharge follow up, both are observe to be doing well.

The gunshot wounds of two patients presented in this study heal significantly after four weeks of UVR. This occurs after several other therapeutic regimens have failed. Previous studies have confirmed the efficacy of UVR in pressure ulcers and chronic wounds, including venous and diabetic foot ulcers (Onigbinde *et al.*, 2010; Nussbaum, *et al.*, 2013; Yarboro, *et al.*, 2019).

In term of the duration of treatment, the gunshot wounds significantly heal in four weeks (about 30 days). In chronic ulcers, Yarboro et al (2019) reported an average of 45 days (range 4 – 260 days) while using UVR to successfully treat venous, diabetic foot and traumatic wounds. Our study observes that gunshot wounds, its wound healing and antimicrobial effects appear to have similar biological explanations. To promote wound healing, UVR is absorbed by extracellular fluids components and capillaries which promotes endothelial cell proliferation and induce expression of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) (Parrish, 2002; Gupta, *et al.*, 2013). This initiates proliferation and maturation involving erythema, epidermal hyperplasia, increased blood flow in microcirculation and bactericidal effect (Guo and DiPietro, 2010; Feily, 2016).

UVR activity, after a few days, increases the rate of synthesis of DNA, RNA and proteins that contribute in skin thickening as a late phase response and also bacterial cell inactivation (Thai, et al., 2002; Gupta, *et al.*, 2013). It also enhances granulation tissue formation by release of prostaglandin (PG-E) and histamine (Gupta, *et al.*, 2013). The release of these mediators usually leads to early repair in the dermis and delay erythema response for a few hours which decrease a little (Feily, 2016).

The dose of the UVR used on the two patients did not result in any damage to the skin. The safety profile of UVR has been an issue of caution (Feily, 2016). Phototherapy UV irradiation effectiveness has been reported to depend on many factors such as the chosen irradiation parameters with maximal effective wavelength and lowest irradiation level (Feily, 2016). UVR (207nm) has been reported to kills bacteria efficiently without being cytotoxic or mutagenic (Buonanno, et al., 2013). Ultraviolet (UV) radiation (200–280? nm) has been directly applied to the wounded tissue to stimulate wound healing, restore skin homeostasis and selectively inactivate micro-organisms (Gupta, *et al.*, 2013).

As cautioned by Kaleshtari, et al., (2015), in carrying out the therapy on patients, the doses (wavelength) are carefully measured against the time of exposure, energy emitted, and other precautions. The two patients' wounds heal up without any damage to skin and at the two weeks after discharge follow up, both are doing well.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The gunshot wounds of both patients heal significantly after four weeks of ultraviolet radiation therapy. This study contributes to the body of evidence on the efficacy of ultraviolet ray therapy in wound care. Previous evidences abound on its efficacy on pressure sore treatment. Results from this study show the effectiveness of UVR in healing process with good tissue granulation and perfusion in wounds resulting from gunshots. Thus, the current report shows that the efficacy of UV therapy can be extended to the treatment of gunshots wounds in our locality.

Based on the results of these case reports, it is recommended that:

1. More studies should be conducted to establish the place of UVR in wound management.
2. The need for clinicians (nurses, physical therapist, surgeons and physicians) to collaborate in both wound care and research in this area is paramount.

## LIMITATIONS

The few patients included in this non-randomized, and non-experimental study make generalization of findings difficult. The study however has the potential to stimulate further widespread study of this therapy in the overall management of gunshots and other traumatic wounds as an adjuvant therapy.

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