

# Closed Pulsed Irrigation and Referred Wound Types at a Community Hospital - A Comparison

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## Background

In Connecticut, there are only a few inpatient hospital physical therapy departments who are involved in direct wound care through either pulsed lavage(PL) or closed pulse irrigation(CPI). Bristol Hospital(BH) has maintained its involvement in wound care with its physical therapy department for more than 30 years and at this time we note inpatient referrals are provided almost exclusively through the wound care nurse practitioner service. This project was initiated due to a lack of benchmarking data for types of wounds referred to our CPI program compared to wound types across the US.



## Objective

To compare the types of wounds referred to inpatient physical therapy for CPI to 3 types of chronic wounds noted nationally.

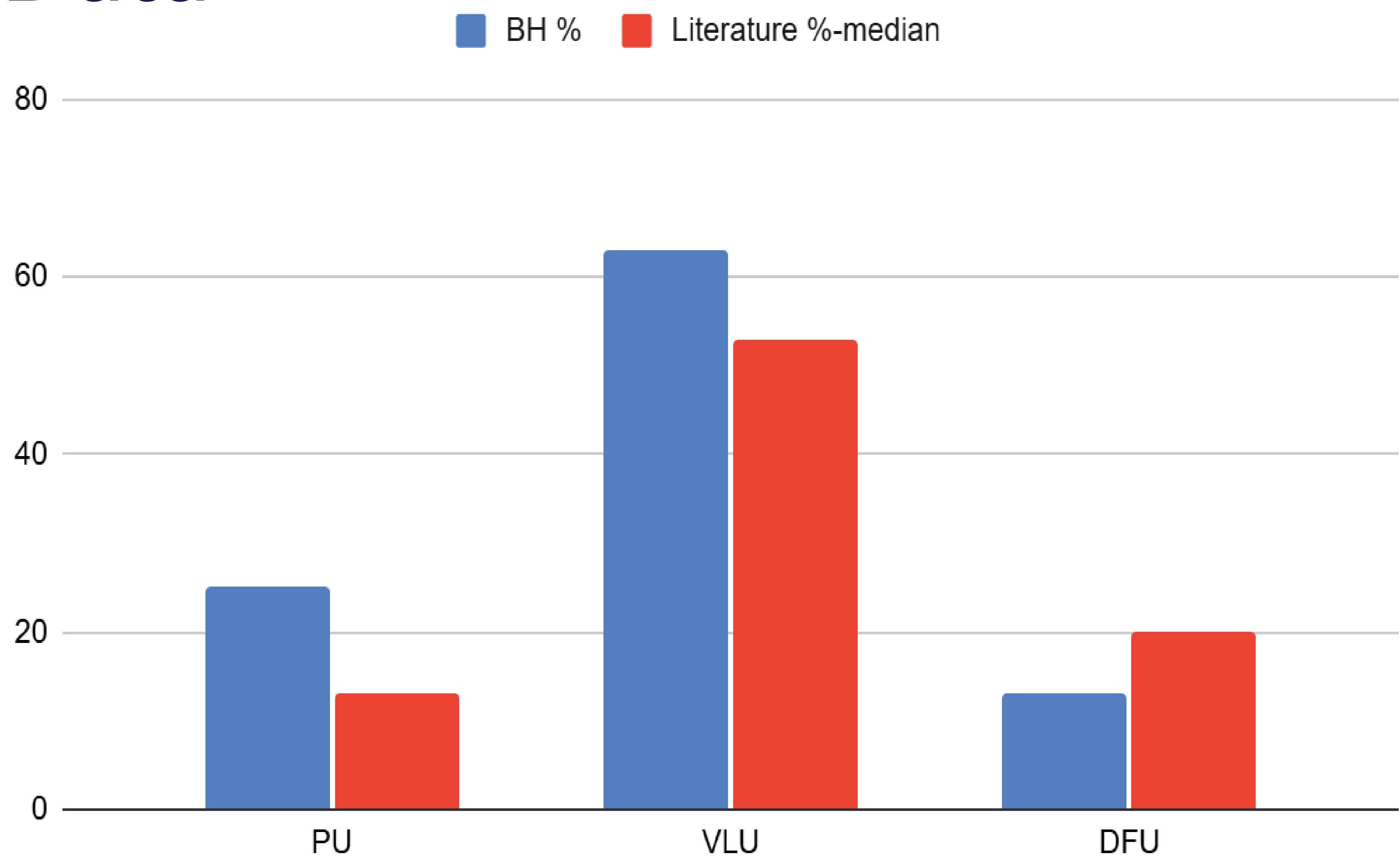
## Method

We collected wound type data from our referrals for CPI from a 6 month period. Data included the number of treatments performed and the type of wound being referred for treatment. In the 6 months that we collected data on, 8 patients were referred for a total of 19 CPI treatments.

## Citations

1. Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Chronic Wounds in Older Adults. Hoversten, Katherine P et al. Mayo Clinics Proceedings, Vol 95, Issue 9, 2021.
2. Tervo-Heikkinen, T. A., Heikkilä, A., & Koivunen, M. (2021). Pressure injury prevalence and incidence in acute inpatient care and related risk factors: A cross-sectional national study. *International Wound Journal*, 19(4), 919–931. <https://doi.org/10.1111/iwj.13692>.

## Data



Although there was no comparative data at a national level found, we did also look at the number of treatments by wound type and noted 8 for pressure ulcers, 8 for venous leg ulcers, and 3 for diabetic foot ulcers. Due to the setting being the inpatient hospital, this is not necessarily a direct reflection of the severity of the ulcer as multiple other factors are involved and most patients were discharged from the hospital for ongoing medical and wound care at another site, i.e. skilled nursing facility.

## Recommendations

More pressure ulcers were referred to CPI then may be expected looking at national data however this could be related to this population being older, sicker, and more immobile and hence have limited treatment options- i.e. poor candidates for the OR. We recommend additional studies to delineate this further.