



ERIN RAJHATHY is a Registered Nurse specialized in wound, ostomy, and continence care. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Ottawa and a Master of Clinical Science in Advanced Health Care Practice (Wound Healing) from University of Western Ontario. She is certified in wound, ostomy, and continence care by the Canadian Nurses Association. Her professional experience includes clinical practice, academic teaching within both Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Practical Nursing programs in Canada, and work within the medical device sector in a role aligned with the interests of the public home-care sector. She has also held clinical leadership positions in wound, ostomy, and continence care within the Ontario home and community care sector, where she contributed to the development of programs, policies, and clinical processes to support practice.

This thesis examines wound cleansing in chronic wound management as a routinely performed yet insufficiently characterized clinical practice. Despite its central role in care, the empirical evidence informing how cleansing is performed remains limited, with much guidance derived from indirect sources, including acute wound models, laboratory studies, and expert consensus.

The research was conducted as a multi-study program. Study I systematically reviewed the existing evidence base for wound cleansing techniques in chronic wounds. Study II involved the development and initial psychometric evaluation of a questionnaire assessing nurses' knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP). Study III applied the instrument in an international cross-sectional survey to characterize variation in clinical practice. Study IV conducted confirmatory factor analysis to evaluate the internal structure of the attitudes subscale.

The findings demonstrate that wound cleansing is a practice-dense, evidence-light intervention, characterized by variability in knowledge and practice across clinical contexts. The thesis contributes a structured approach to measuring and interpreting wound cleansing as a clinical practice, providing a foundation for future research, education, and implementation.

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Medical Science with a specialisation in Healthcare Science



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