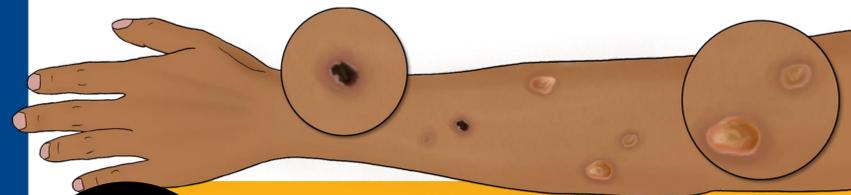


Drivers and Deterrents of Accessing Care for Patients with Xylazine-Associated Wounds

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Introduction

- Xylazine (“tranq”), a veterinary sedative in the unregulated opioid supply, can cause chronic ulcerative wounds.
- Wound severity varies, with complications including infection, amputation, & death.
- Patients often delay seeking medical care, opting for self-treatment, which can worsen wound severity and outcomes.

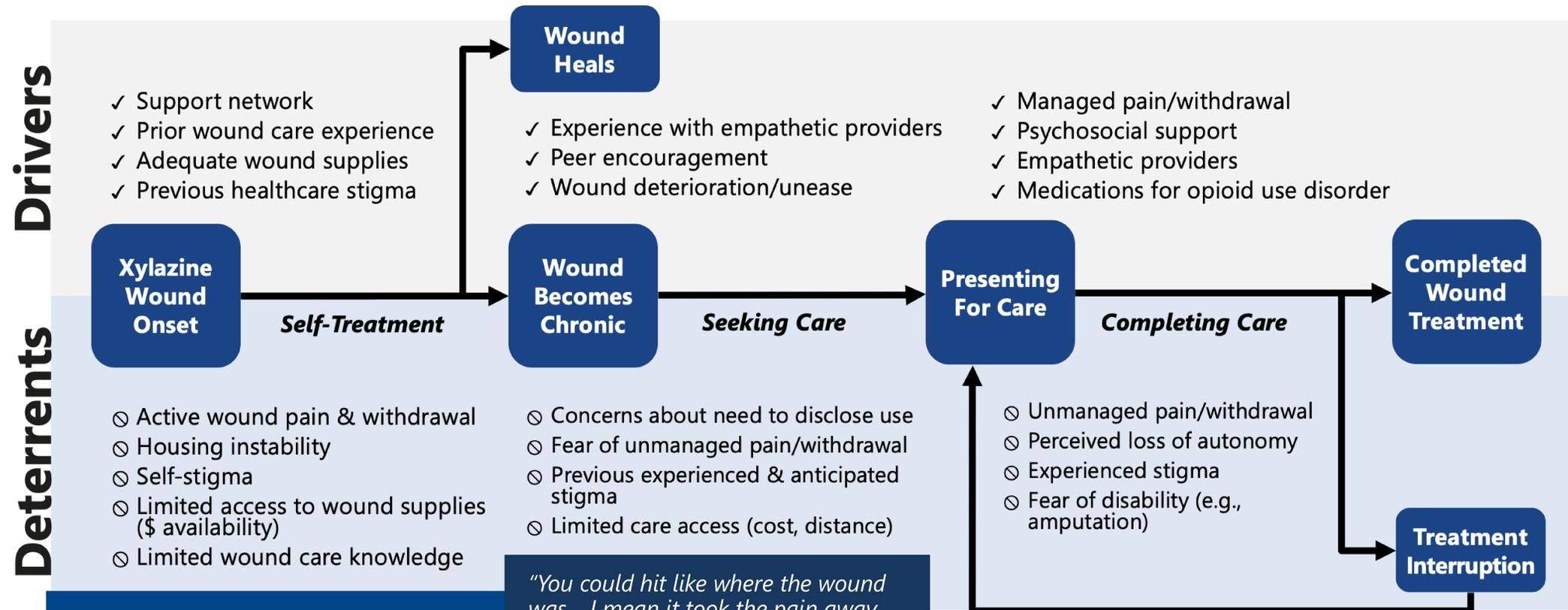


What drives or deters patients from seeking and completing care for their xylazine wounds?

Methods

- 1 Semi-structured interviews (Mar-Apr 2024) with patients from 2 hospitals & 2 clinics in Pittsburgh with:
 - ✓ At least one xylazine wound
 - ✓ Confirmed xylazine exposure by urine testing or test strip
- 2 Qualitative analysis using the Conceptual Model of Care Avoidance

Results

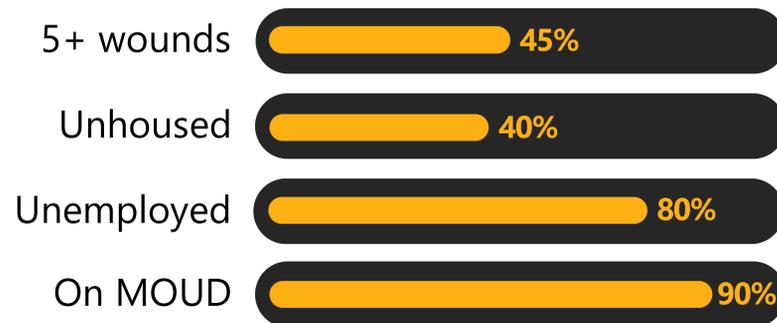


“Wound products are so expensive out there. You can’t always afford them. So, you end up not caring for them the way you should sometimes.”

“You could hit like where the wound was... I mean it took the pain away... it’s like a catch-22. But... are you gonna sit there and deal with the pain or take the pain away? I mean, it’s a terrible outcome, but what are you gonna do?”

“One hospital treated me like I was less than zero... And then, it wasn’t long from there where I went to another hospital, and it wasn’t much better.... I swear, they don’t want to help you... they find out that you’re a drug user, and they want nothing to do with you. I mean, it’s terrible.”

Patient Demographics (N=20)



Conclusions

- ✓ Our study highlights interconnected factors that lead individual to avoid seeking medical care for wounds.
- ✓ Healthcare systems must prioritize addressing deterrents to seeking and completing care to facilitate engagement and wound healing.
- ✓ Expanding harm reduction and wound supply distribution can engage those reluctant to access traditional care settings.