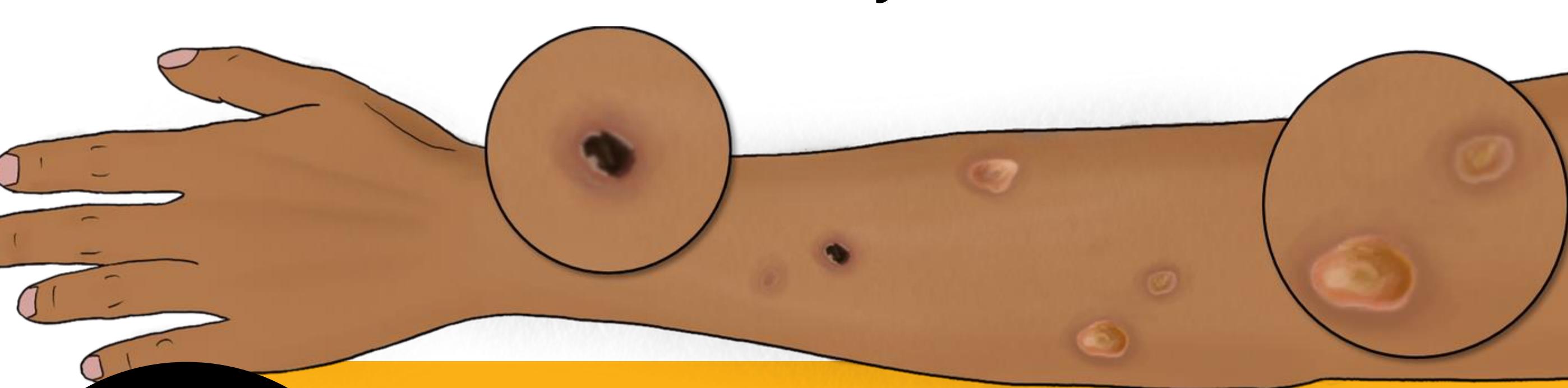


Drivers and Deterrants of Accessing Care for Patients with Xylazine-Associated Wounds

Olivia Studnicki BS¹, Margaret Shang MD, MS², Kevan Schultz BA³, David Halpern MS³, Ilana Hull MD, MSc², Alice Bell LCSW⁴, Jane M Liebschutz MD, MPH², Raagini Jawa MD, MPH, FASAM²

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.



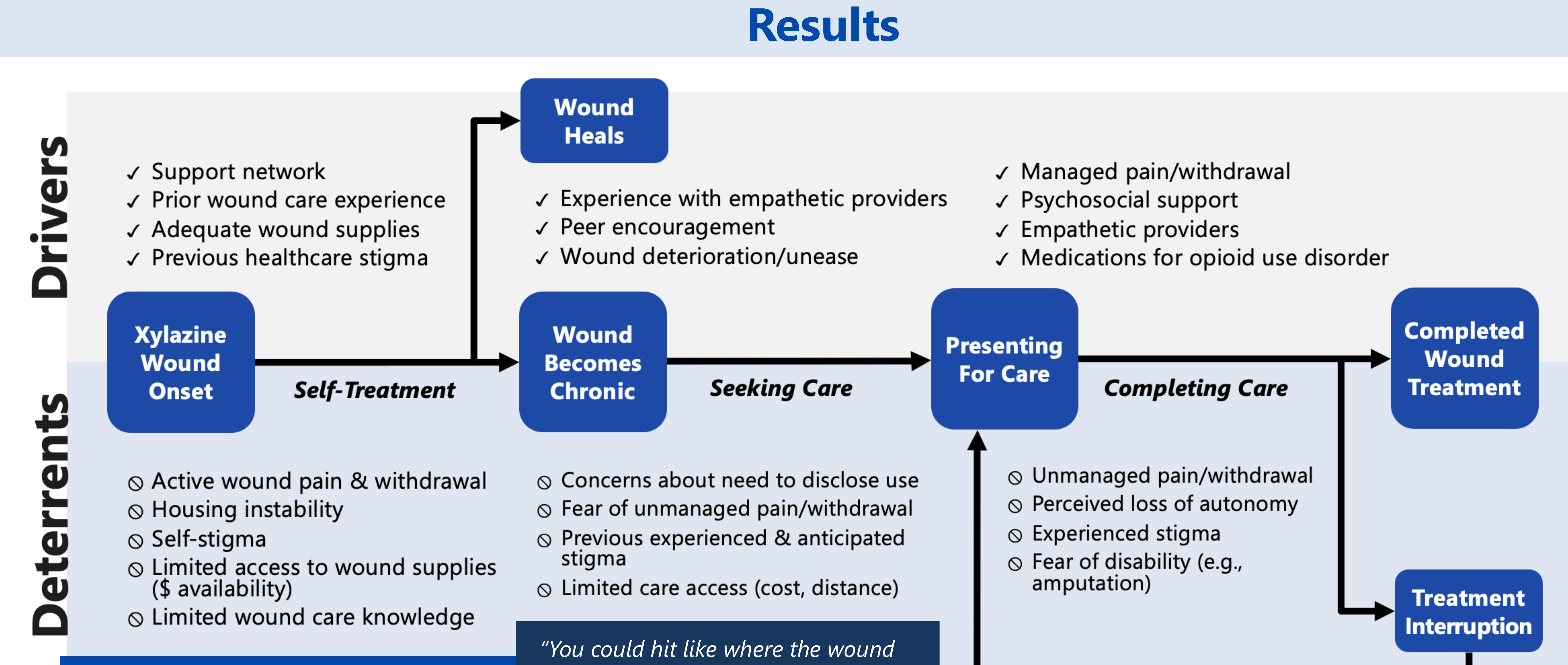
What drives or deters patients from seeking and completing care for their xylazine wounds?

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



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.