

Do Wound Measurement Protocols in Facilities Standardize Clinician Technique And Lead to More Consistent Results?

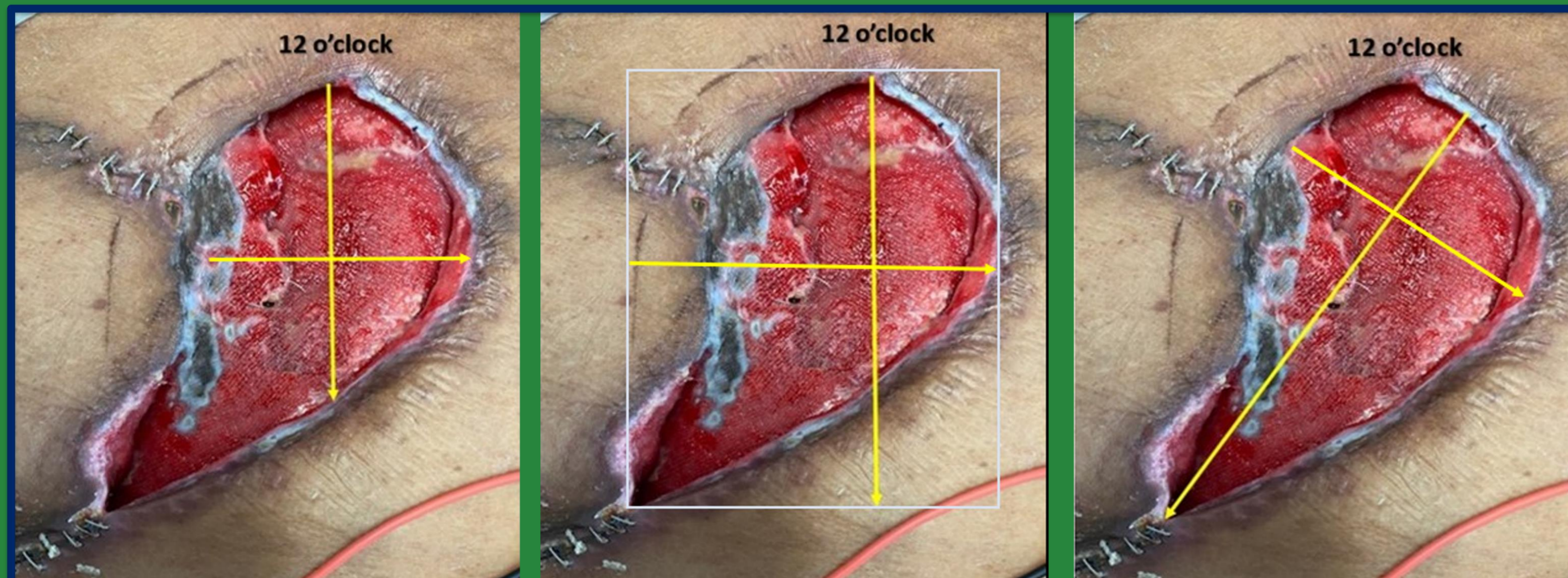
Rebecca A. Helms PT, DPT, WCC, Lisa Rancer PT, DPT, CWS, Nicole V. Hodges PT, DPT, Ph.D., ATC

Introduction and Purpose

- The Box^{1,2}, Clockface^{3,4} and Longest Length/Widest Width^{3,4} (LL/WW) methods are commonly described wound measurement techniques.
- Limited evidence exists evaluating consistency of technique application in clinical practice.
- Variability in wound measurements may be influenced by clinician education, confidence, and communication of expectation across care teams.
- This study examined clinician confidence, organizational protocols, and wound measurement practices.

Methods

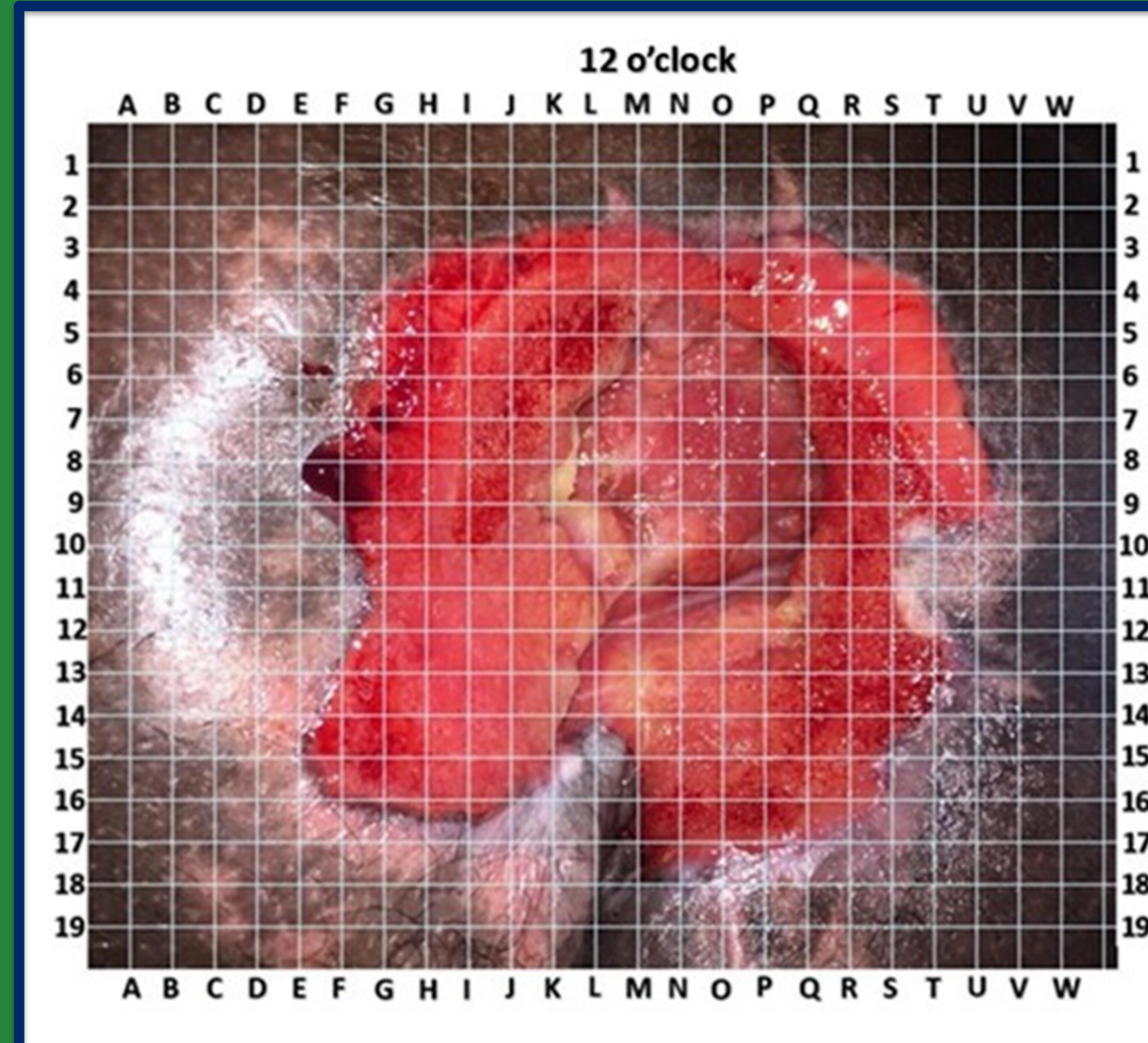
- Utilizing a cross-sectional design, researchers developed a face- and content-validated anonymous survey and collected responses by convenience sampling through professional wound care organizations, hospitals, universities, social media platforms, and industry wound care education events.
- Participants completed a Qualtrics survey and measured four standardized two-dimensional wound images using their preferred technique (Box, Clockface, LL/LW), while also assessing confidence, organizational protocols, and wound measurement practices.
- Researchers used imputation with a zero/constant value for missing data and analyzed findings with SPSS to provide statistical descriptions⁵.



Clock Method^{1,2}

Box Method^{3,4}

LL/WW Method^{3,4}



Clinical Implications

- Clinician education and effective communication of standardized measurement expectations exert greater influence on wound measurement consistency than formal organizational protocols alone.
- Targeted training and interdisciplinary communication may enhance measurement reliability, improve documentation quality, and support consistent clinical and reimbursement decision-making.
- Clinicians who hold advanced wound care certifications may have more consistent wound measurements, potentially due to having higher confidence and using the Box Method technique.

Results

- 94 clinicians that work with wounds participated in the study, with 94% reporting use of a paper ruler for wound measurement
- Box Method of measurement proved to be the most consistent, with participants using this method having 20% accuracy.
- None of the participants using the Clock Method or the Longest Length/Widest Width technique demonstrated consistent measurements.
- Among participants who demonstrated consistent measurements, 58% held advanced certifications
- Clinicians with advanced wound care certification reported significantly higher confidence in wound measurement ($F=4.39, p = 0.039$)
- Advanced wound care certification was strongly associated with box method use
- 76% participants reported organization protocols, but was not a predictor of box method use

Conclusion

- In addition to establishing clear protocols, facilities should ensure effective communication and comprehensive training to promote accurate and consistent wound measurement practices.

Acknowledgements

This study was approved as exempt by the
Methodist University IRB

References

