Bandages and bandaging

**Type 2.** Bandages have light support properties and are used for prevention of oedema and as support in the management of sprains and strains. Silicon N.A., Tricotex and in the past paraffin gauze compression (Thomas 1990). As the retention bandages include: Crimp, K Band, Texband, Tensoplast and range in price from 1.1p to 41p plus VAT for 10cm x 5m. All pricing levels are subject to local agreement.

There are a range of unsatisfactory features associated with bandages made from cotton crepe:

- dangerously high pressures may be exerted when the joint is applied
- there is a rapid fall in pressure after the first few hours of wearing making it ineffective (Raj et al 1980)
- humidity produces adverse effects on the tensed bandage by the twisted cotton (Fentem 1990)
- poor performance following washing (non-adhesive bandages)

Examples of light support bandages include: Elastocrepe, Elastoplast, Leucocrepe, K lite and range in price from approximately 33p to £3.36 plus VAT (adhesive bandages) for 7.5cm x 4.5m.

**Compression bandages.** Compression implies the deliberate application of pressure to produce a desired clinical effect and is usually achieved by the use of an appropriate bandage or elasticised hosiery (Thomas 1990a). Compression bandaging is the single most important element in the treatment of venous leg ulcers.

**Graduated compression.** Compression implies the deliberate application of pressure to produce a desired clinical effect and is usually achieved by the use of an appropriate bandage or elasticised hosiery (Thomas 1990a). Compression bandaging is the single most important element in the treatment of venous leg ulcers.

**Types of compression bandages**

- **Type 3A.** Bandages are classified as light compression bandages and produce equivalent pressures to Class 1, compression hosiery. The pressure provided and maintained at the ankle is in the region of 14, 17mmHg. Their use is in the management of leg ulcers, varices, treatment of oedema and support for varicosities associated with pregnancy.

- **Type 3B.** Bandages are classified as medium compression bandages and provide pressures equivalent to Class 2, compression hosiery. Indications for use include treatment of varices, leg ulcer prevention and treatment, mild to moderate oedema management and varices associated with pregnancy. The maximum compression given is 18-24mmHg sustained pressure at the ankle.

- **Type 3C.** Bandages are classified as high compression bandages and produce equivalent pressures to Class 3, compression hosiery. These may be used for the management of venous leg ulcers, post thrombotic syndrome and gross oedema.

- **Type 3D.** Extrahigh compression bandages provide pressures equivalent to Class 4, compression hosiery. They are used where there is a serious risk of deep vein thrombosis. Examples of extra high compression bandages include: Bilastic Forte, Blue Line.