## Novel approach for chronic wound treatment by autologous transplantation

I read the recent pilot report on the novel approach for chronic wound treatment with great interest. Shukla and colleagues[1] concluded that "Autologous noncultured epidermal cell suspension transplantation seems to be an effective, simple and time-saving method to treat chronic non-healing wounds."[1] Indeed, the autologous cell transplantation is a new approach for medical treatment. It is reported to be an acceptable one-step process for treatment of wounds in animal models.[2] However, there are some concerns on the use of this technique in humans. First, both subjective and objective assessment on the outcome should be performed to ascertain the effectiveness of this technique.[3] Second, the cell concentration and dosage is an important factor of concern in this specific therapeutic approach.[4] Third, it would be interesting to know the cost and cost-effectiveness of this new technique.

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**Competing interests:** None declared.

### References

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## Drs. Shukla and Pandey reply

We thank Prof. Wiwanitkit, who has taken keen interest in our article, for his appreciation and constructive comments. He has raised some concerns on the use of this technique in humans: the assessment of the outcome, cell dosage, cost and cost-effectiveness. We have already mentioned that the study was a pilot study that demonstrated the effectiveness of the technique; however, we did not quantify the cell dosage and cost-effectiveness. To address this we are evaluating the cell count/cm$^2$ and the cost-effectiveness of the technique in phase II of the study, the results of which will be communicated on completion of the study.

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**Competing interests:** None declared.