

The WoundWatch

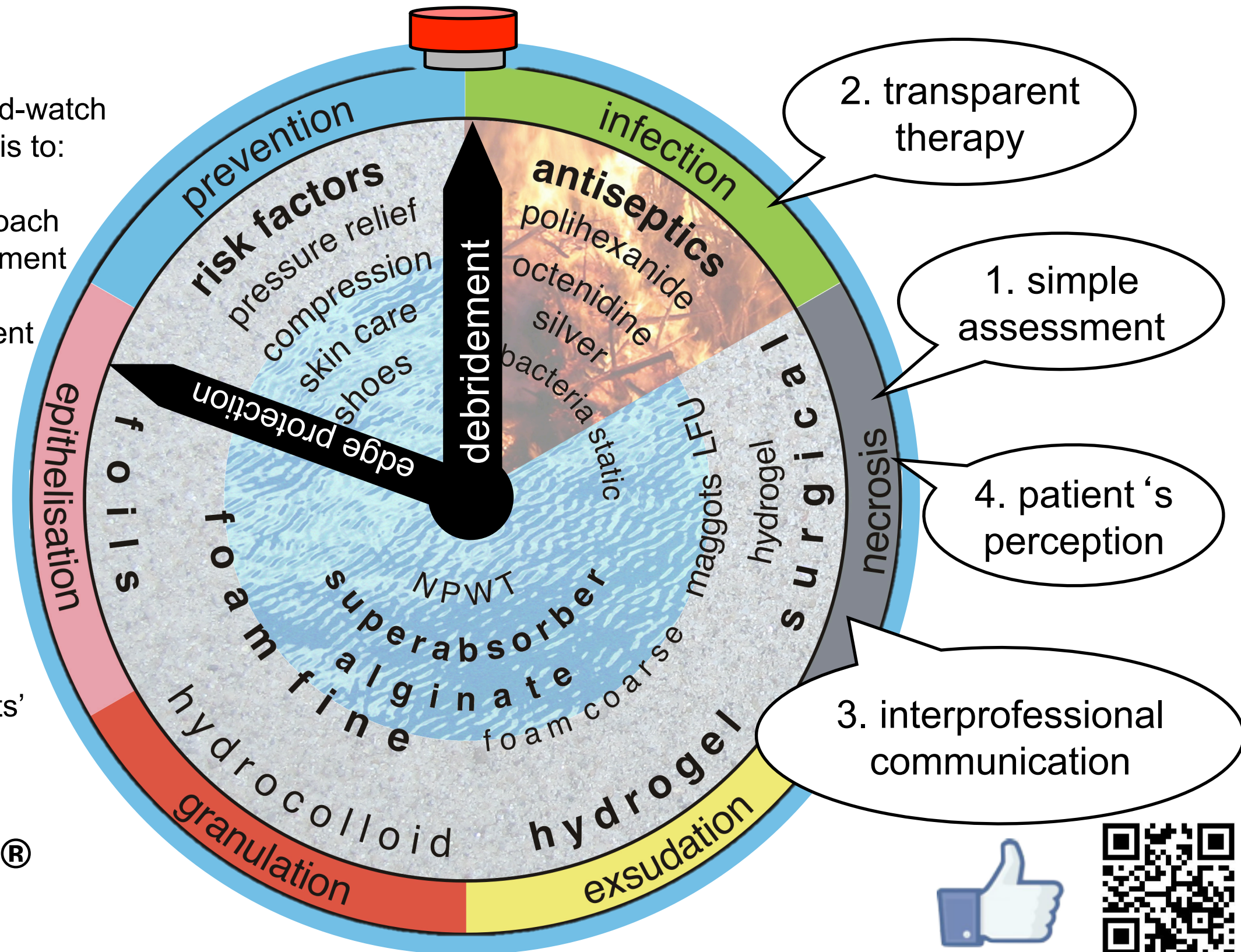
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Introduction:

The aim of the Wound-watch (German: WundUhr) is to:

1. simplify the approach to wound assessment
2. make the treatment transparent and understandable
3. Improve the communication between doctors nurses and their patients
4. speak the patients' language.



WundUhr®

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1. Simple Assessment

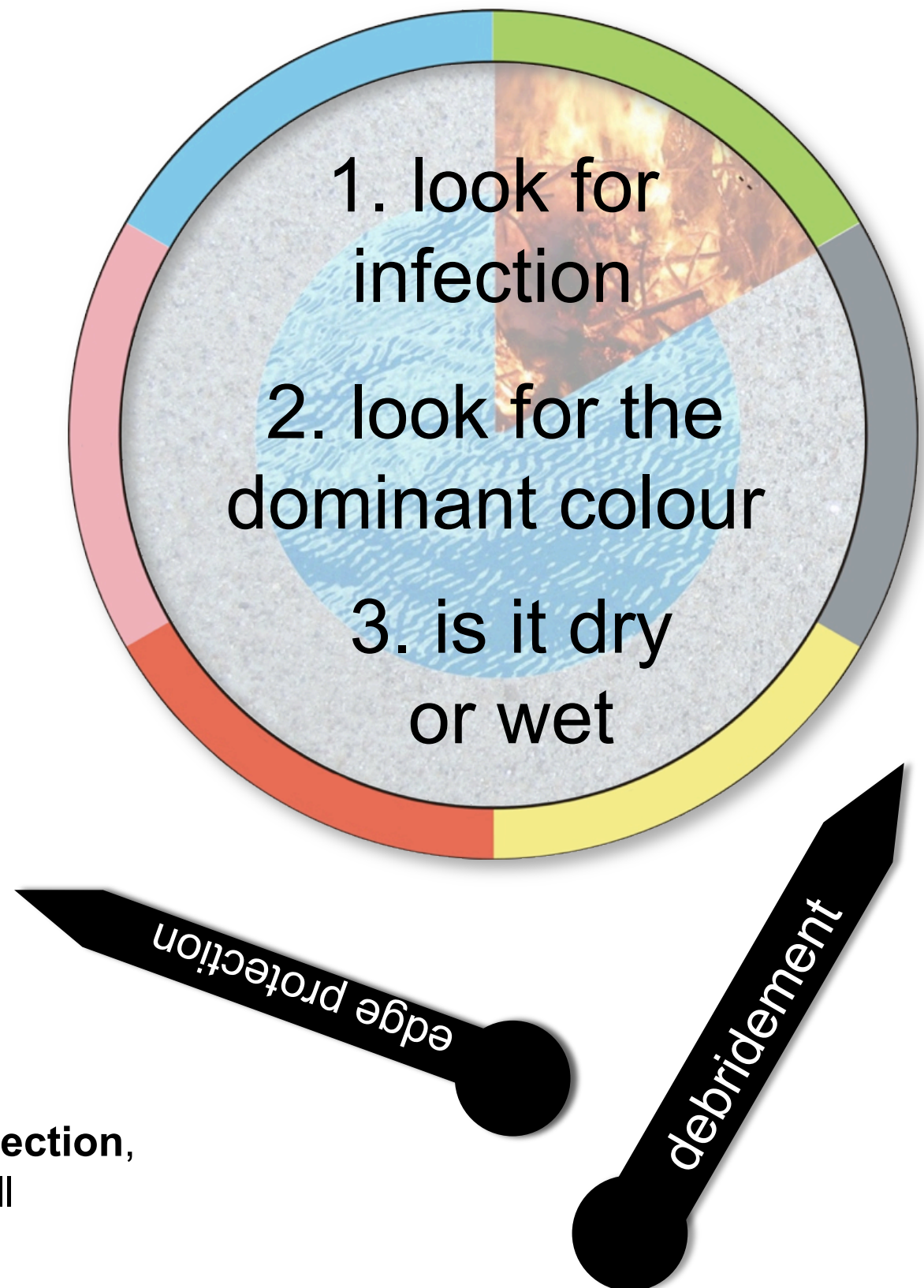
Method:

The WoundWatch is a colourful and simple scheme in the form of a clock. Six sections symbolise the **phases of wound healing**. Each section has a dominating colour on the outer ring:

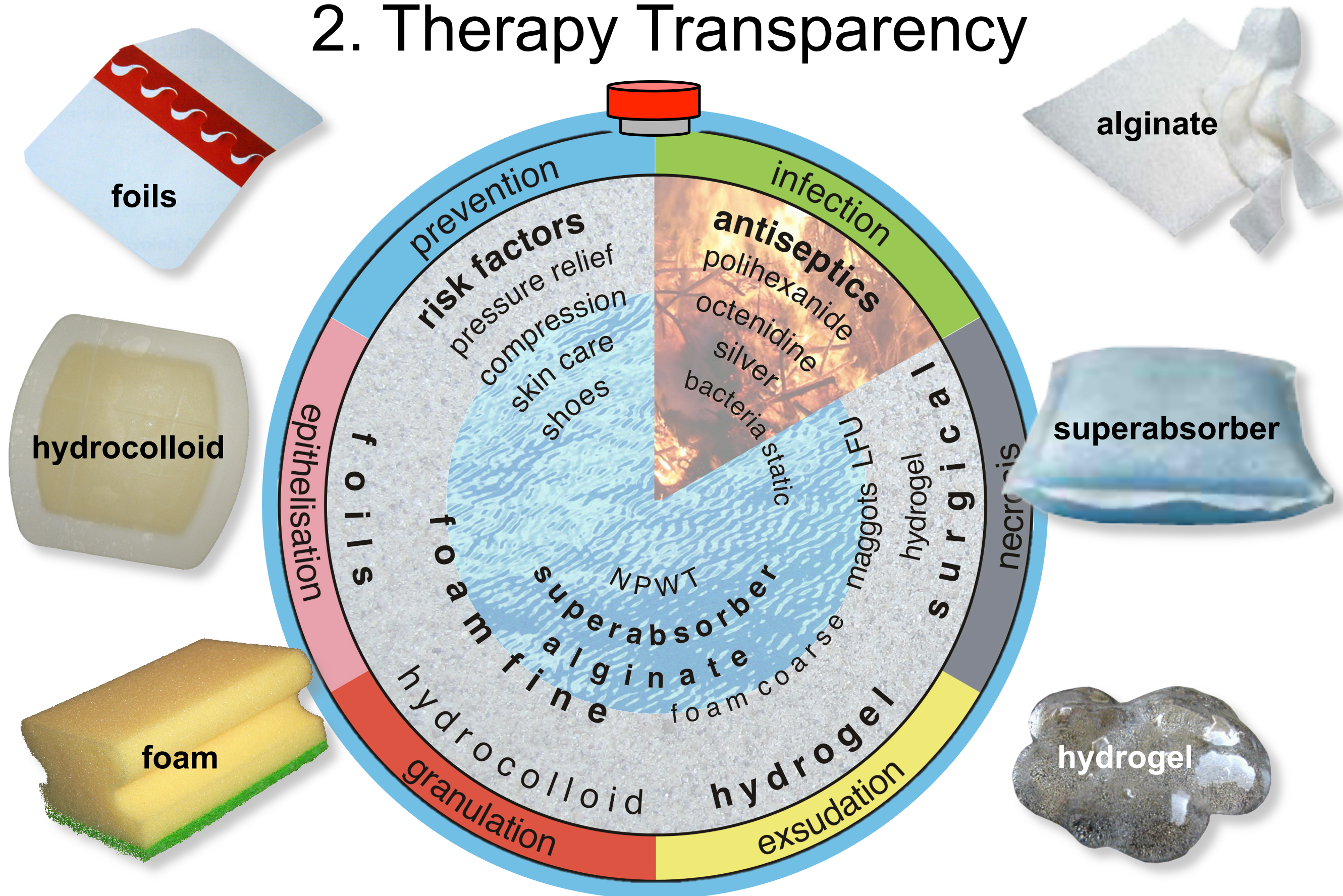
infection – **green**
necrosis – **gray**
exsudation – **yellow**
granulation – **red**
epitheliasation – **pink**
prevention – **blue**

In the center of the watch is a water filled circle, resembling the **wet condition** of a wound. Adjoined is a sand filled ring resembling the **dry condition**.

The big hand of the clock is named **edge protection**, the small one **debridement**, both present in all phases.



2. Therapy Transparency



The **products** are summarized in 6 main groups and placed in the WoundWatch according to the phase and condition of the wound in which they are recommended.

3. Interprofessional Communication

Results:

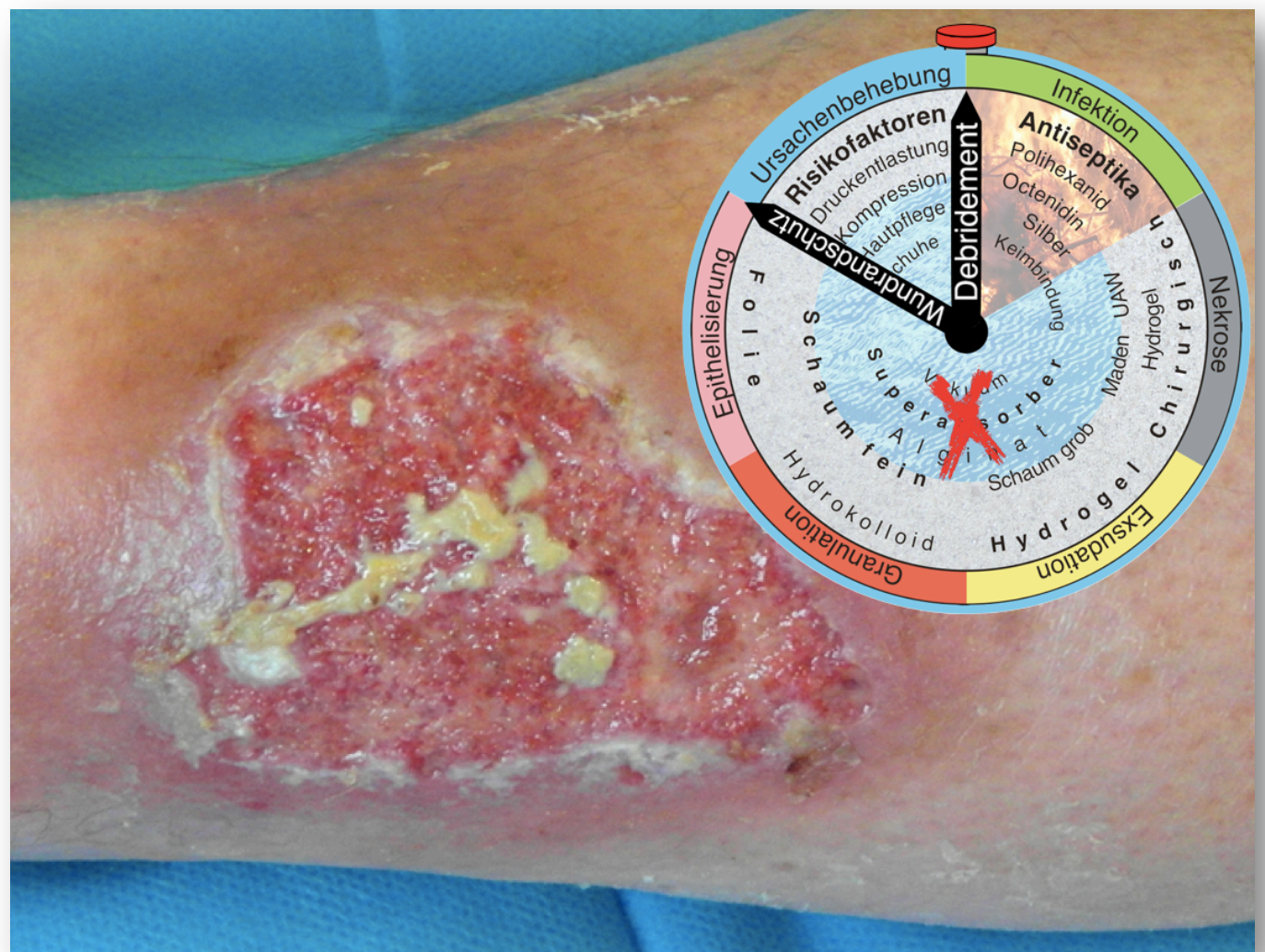
We use the woundwatch to organise our hospital wound therapy. The simple scheme is used during hospital ward rounds to explain the therapeutic decision and visualize the progress of wound healing to colleagues, nurses and the patients. The wound products groups on the WoundWatch are listed in the same way in the hospital order forms.

We also use the WoundWatch to structure our education in modern wound therapy for nurses and doctors.

The WoundWatch is available at www.wunduhr.de as a **printed postcard** with explanations of wound products on the back side or in poster form for consulting rooms.

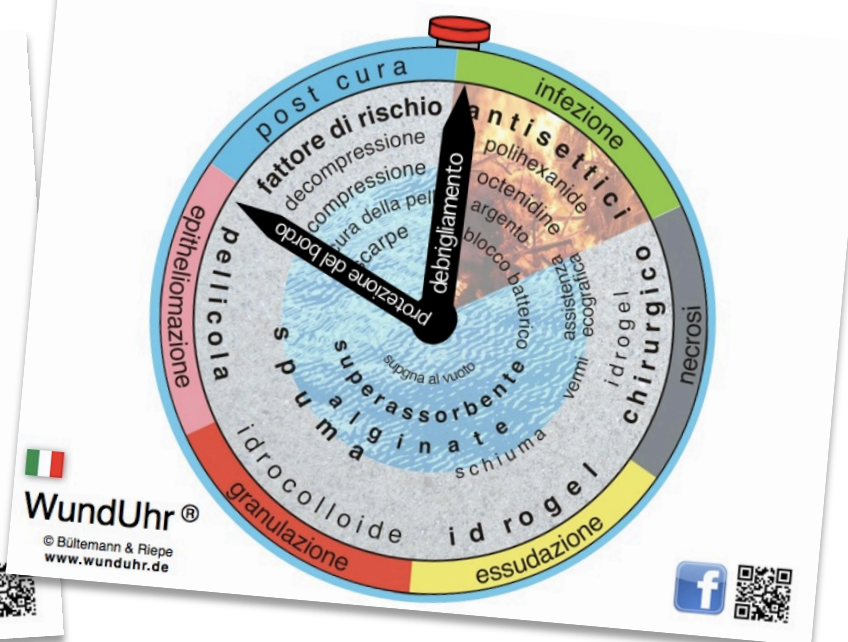
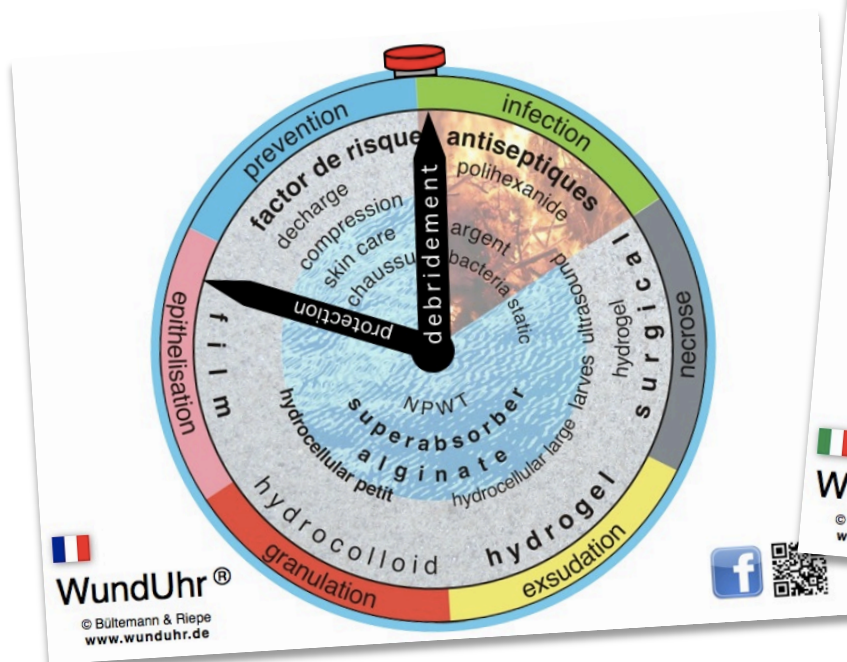
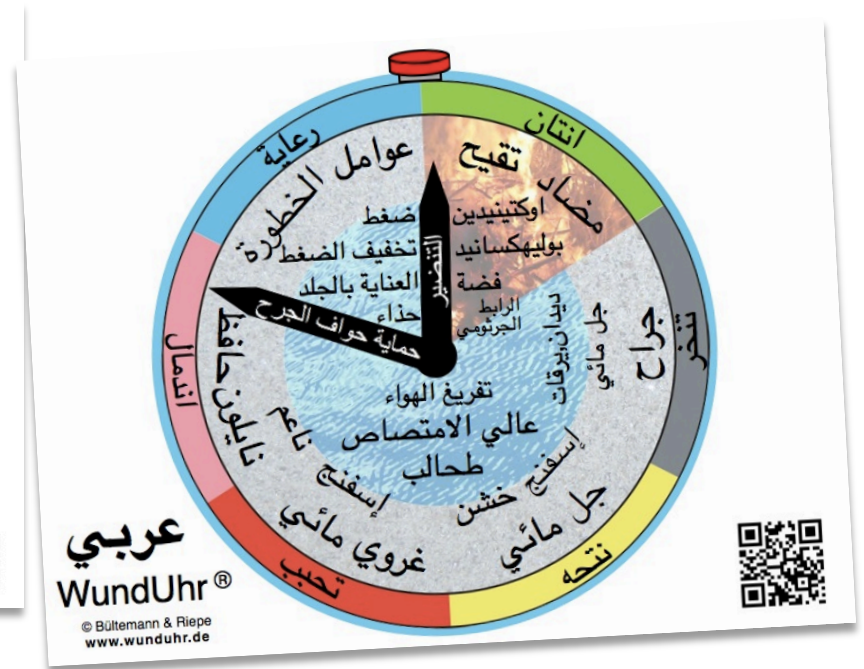
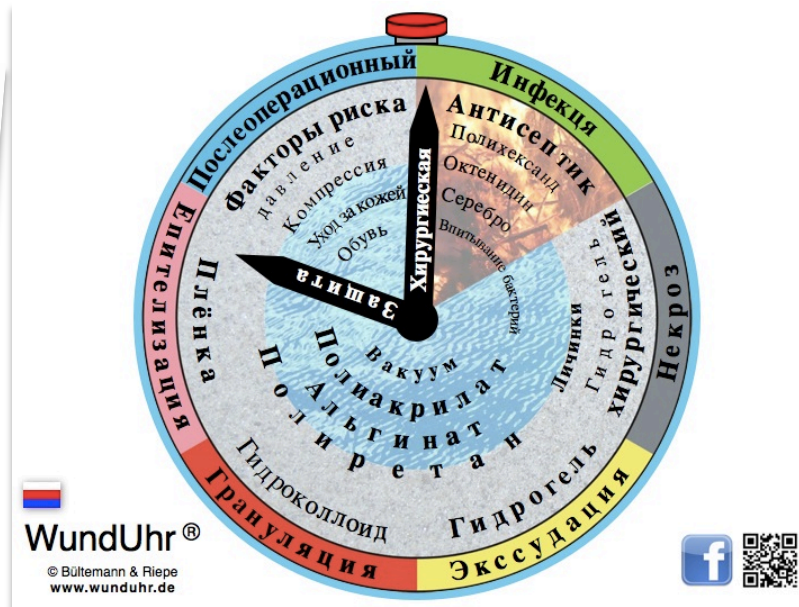
An **interactive German and English version** the webpage www.wunduhr.de/start.html provides information about the product groups and links to the 17 manufacturers.

An **app for smart phones** has been programmed and will be available for iOS and Android soon.



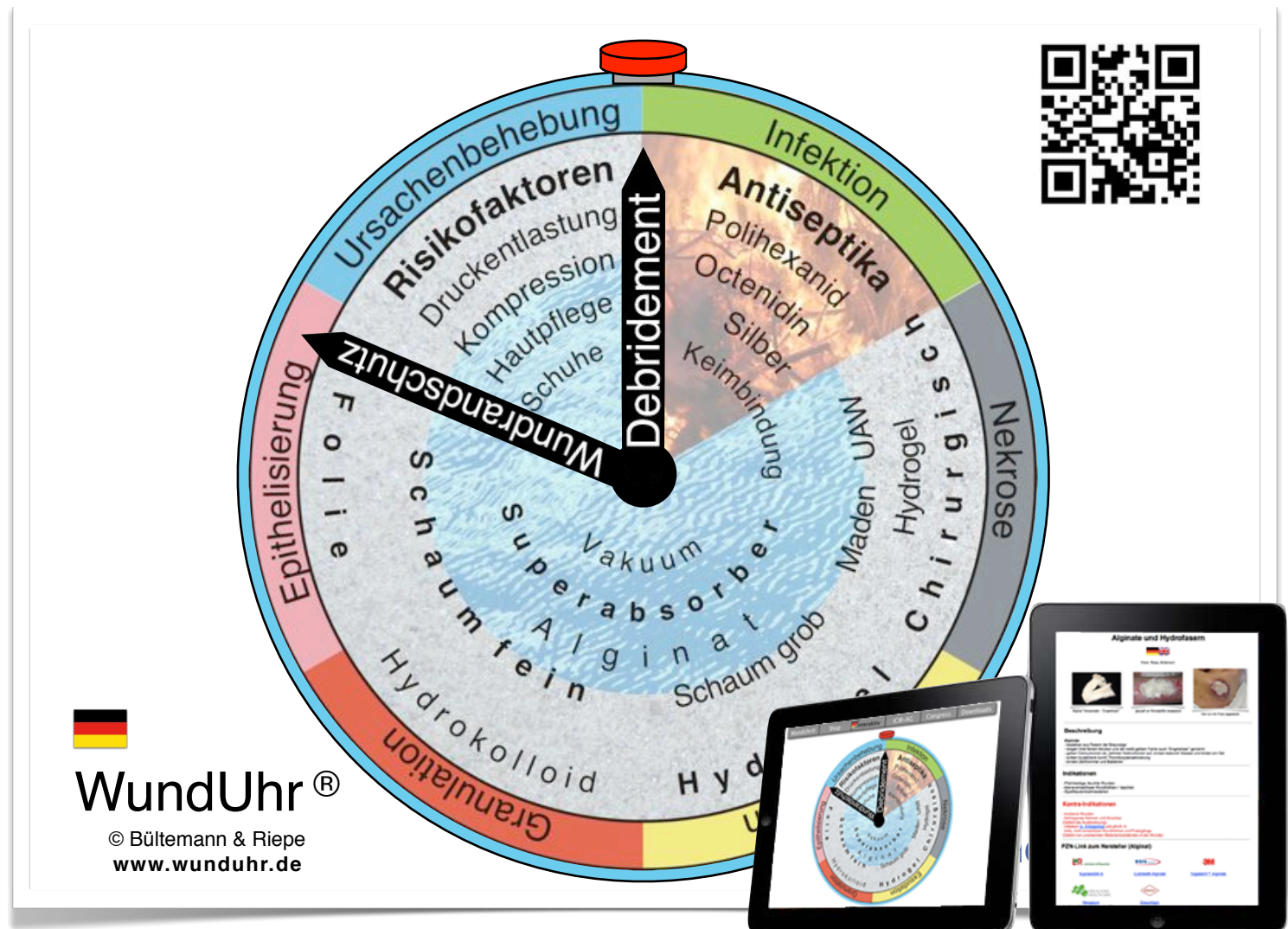
4. Patient Perception

To increase the perception of our patients we translated the WundUhr into 17 languages, including russian, arabian and chinese as well as 11 german dialects. Patients become aware of our respect to their language.



Discussion

In Germany, many obstacles hamper the establishment of the modern wound treatment. In order to simplify the approach to modern wound treatment and to improve the missing interprofessional communication we developed our clock. It reminds that wound healing is dynamic, that the dominating phases should always proceed clockwise and that after the wound is before the next wound. The simple scheme helps to visualise the decision for a therapy and it's progress to differently experienced nurses, doctors and patients.



Conclusion:

The WoundWatch is a simplified, company-independent assessment tool for chronic wound treatment convenient for beginners, professionals and patients. It attained the main research prize at the Deutscher Wundkongress 2011 and won a poster prize at the EWMA congress 2011.