

Aym of the study

To check the short term efficacy of a nutraceutic supplementation with a specific product (**W-care**, Nutritional care Technology) in the treatment of bedsore lesions (BSL) in neoplastic patients in advanced stages , assisted at home by the Foundation ANT-Italy of Bologna

Materials and Methods

Characteristics of the Population

- Male: 4
- Female: 3
- Age : 81 + / - 7.3 years
- Place of neoplasia: 2 myeloma, 2 lung, 1 prostate, 1 colon, 1 stomach.

Characteristics of bedsore lesions

- **Total:** 9 lesions (2 patients with double BSL).
- **Etiopathogenesis :** prolonged compression
- **Place:** 4 at sacrum, 3 at heel, 1 at trocanter and 1 on the leg.
- **Stage on entry :** 4 at stage II, 3 at stage III and 2 at stage IV.

Method

- **Evaluation of clinical and nutritional parameters,** using the entrance sheet:

- ✓ Seat of the tumour
- ✓ Therapy in progress
- ✓ Main symptoms
- ✓ Karnofsky Index (IK)
- ✓ Nutritional state evaluated against Body Mass Index (BMI: v.n. > 18.5)
- ✓ Total calorie intake noted with nutritional inquiry
- ✓ Total lymphocitemia (v.n. > 1800 mm³)
- ✓ albuminemia (v.n. > 3.5 g/dl)

- **Evaluation of nursing parameters,** using the entrance the sheet compiled at time T₀-T₇-T₁₄-T₂₁-T₂₈:

- ✓ Position of the bedsore lesions
- ✓ Number of lesions
- ✓ Etiopathogenesis of the lesions
- ✓ Risk evaluation (using Norton index)
- ✓ Stage of lesion (according to the N.P.U.A.P. classification)
- ✓ times and treatment methods of lesions preceding T₀
- ✓ Description and photos of lesions when established
- ✓ Patient compliance to the treatment

- **Use of a product (W-care, sachets) with a base of specific nutrients:**

- ✓ L-arginine
- ✓ omega-3
- ✓ vitamin A-E-C-K and from B group
- ✓ zinc
- ✓ collagen

- **Supplementation dosage:**

II-III stage: 2 sachets/per day; IV stage: 3 sachets/per day.

Follow up: 4 weeks

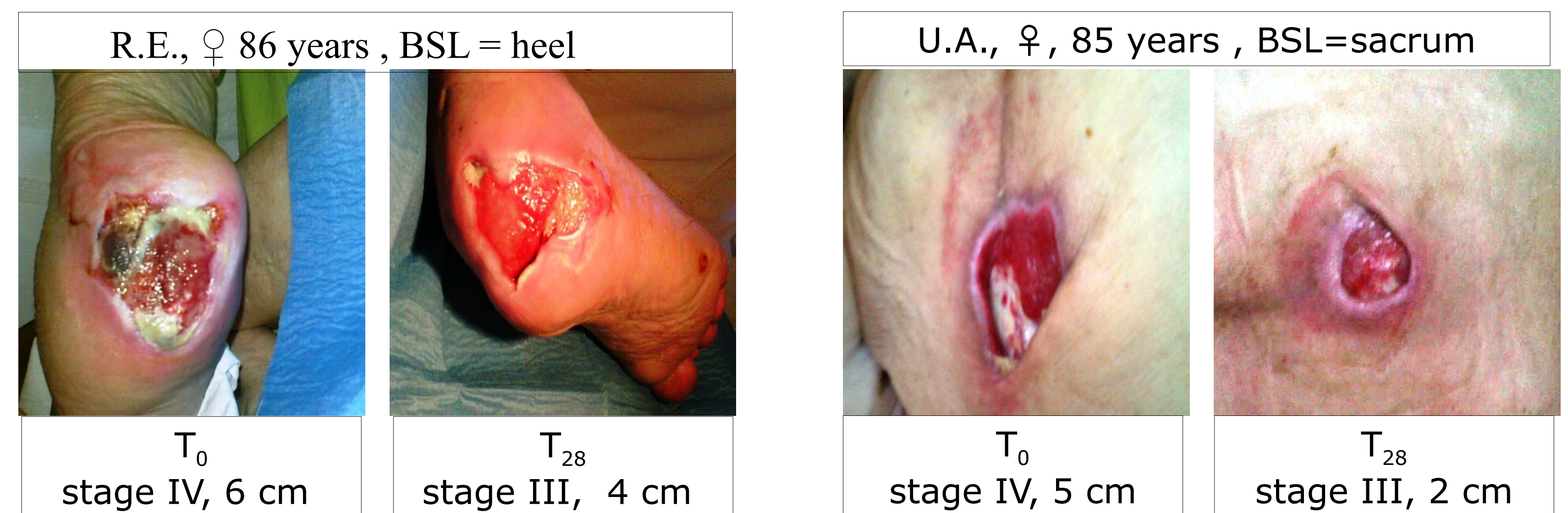
Result

At start of the study (T₀):

- ✓ The bedsore lesions were in treatment for an average 63 +/- 72 days (range: 20-240 days) with medication which was administered on average on 4 days of the week.
- ✓ The intravenous calorie intake and nutritional state were in the normal range for 5 out of 7 patients (for an overall 7 BSL at Stage II and III).
- ✓ In 2 patients with Stage IV lesions, a slight-moderate level of malnutrition was present (BMI=17.5 and 18; total lymphocytes=1120 and 890; albuminemia=2.6 and 2.8) .The total calorie intake was in both < 50% of total energy needs.

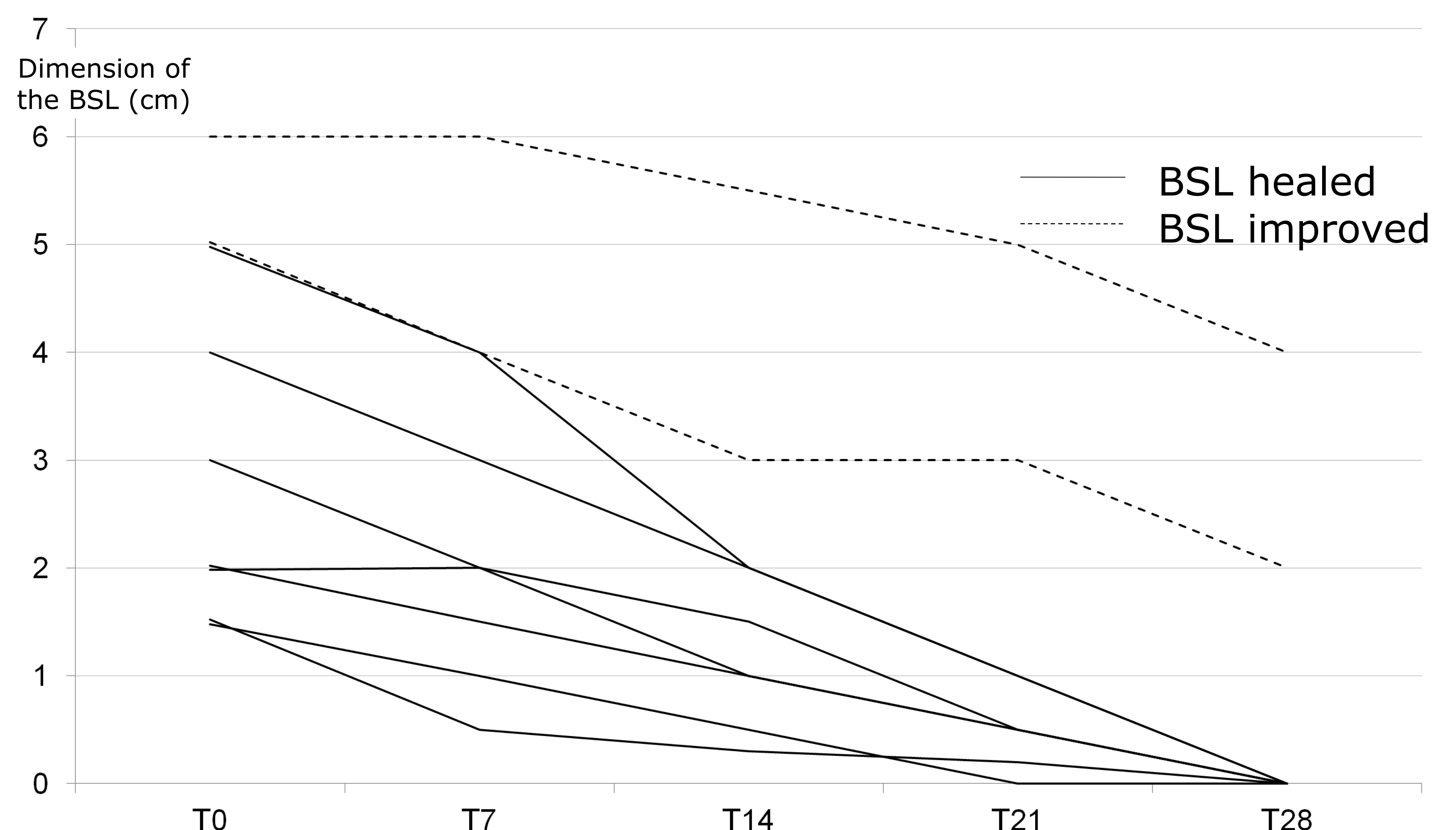
After 4 weeks of treatment (T₂₈):

- ✓ The 7 bedsore lesions at Stages II and III were completely healed.
- ✓ The 2 lesions at Stage IV had improved, with a reduction of the stage and the dimensions (see photo).



- ✓ Compliance with the product showed a good result in all patients

Nutraceutic supplementation:
development of lesions (7 patients, 9 BSL)



Conclusions

The healing at T₂₈ of Stage II and III lesions shows **the efficacy of W-care in the treatment of bedsore lesions in the short term.**

The fact that there was only an improvement in the two mal-nourished patients with Stage IV lesions confirms **the importance of an adequate nutritional state** and suggests the need to increase the nutraceutic supplementation in this category of patient.