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Acute Wounds

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AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENCE, CAUSES, PROGRESSION AND TREATMENT OF PRE-TIBIAL LACERATIONS IN THE ELDERLY

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Aim: The aim of this paper is to present data collected following a project investigating incidence of pre tibial lacerations (PTL's) in 2 Accident and Emergency Departments (A & E), current practice and effectiveness of their management

Methods: A systematic literature review was undertaken to determine current state of the evidence in PTL's; a prospective cohort observation/audit of current practice and management of PTL, including healing time, complications, and infection rates. Using a combination of a patient data electronic recording system and direct observational data in the accident and emergency departments, patients were identified who presented with a skin tear/flap laceration sustained to the skin anterior to the tibia and then followed up for a three month period. Demographic, biochemical, co-morbidity and skin tear data were retrieved or recorded.

Results: The literature search and review demonstrates that there is considerable information on specific dressings but less evidence in overall interventions and management. Results from the prospective observation of patients presenting with PTL's, have highlighted that incidence within the 3 month period of data collection is low, (n=19); however care interventions for treatment and management were varied dependent upon the practitioner's personal preference as to choice of treatment.

Conclusions: Further analysis of the prospective study data is required to establish treatment changes as patients progress from acute to primary care services. Whilst incidence is low, the potential for high cost and intensive service intervention in those patients who do not readily heal, is high.

Acute Wounds

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A CLINICAL EVALUATION ON THE TREATMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH HEEL INJURIES USING A HYDROBALANCE DRESSING

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Aim: This paper presents the results of a clinical evaluation conducted in 20 young children (average age was 5 years old) that suffered from spoke wheel accidents. In the Netherlands parents use the bicycle for transport and take their toddlers with them. Accidents happen frequently causing very painful heel flap injuries, which often become infected.

Methods: Conventional dressings and Moist Wound Healing dressings (MWH) are in use. Although most of the injuries heal, dressing changes cause a lot of anxiety and distress for both the children and their parents. For the study wound treatment existed of cleansing with iodine** and rinsing with saline. A HydroBalance* + PHMB dressing was applied, covered with a foam*** and fixed with a retention bandage. The primary dressing was left in place until epithelialization. Wound inspection was every three days for 14 days. During visits the reduction in wound size, wound bed status, epithelialization, pain during dressing changes and occurrence of an infection, was evaluated.

Results: In N = 20 complete epithelialization occurred in an average of 7.2 days. There were no infections noted. The children were less anxious as during the clinic visits they did not experience pain.

Conclusion: Wound healing was fast and child and parent friendly. The treatment was effective, reducing dressing changes and visits.

*Suprasorb® X + PHMB and **Suprasorp P are products of Lohmann & Rauscher GmbH

***Betadine® is a product of BBraun