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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 the incidence and management of pre-tibial lacerations in elderly Accident and Emergency Departments (A & E) currently practice and effectiveness of their management.

Methods: A systematic literature review was undertaken to determine current state of the evidence in PTL’s, including healing cohort observations, infection practice, and direct observational data in the accident and emergency departments. Patients were identified who presented with a skin tear/laceration sustained to the skin by the object 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 demonstrate that there is considerable variation in specific dressings, but less evidence in overall interventions with PTL’s. Highlighted is the 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 practitioners’ personal preference as to choice of treatment.

Conclusions: Further analysis of the prospective study data is required to establish the incidence, causes, progression and outcome of PTL’s. This will help establish the cost and intensive service intervention in those patients who do not heal.