

Surgical management of Hidradenitis suppurativa

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Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) is a chronic follicular occlusive disease involving the apocrine glands of intertriginous areas of the body, including axilla, groin, genitalia, buttocks and perianal regions. There is a spectrum of disease ranging from abscess formation to chronic, painful, draining lesions with sinus tract and fistula formation. It affects up to 4% of the population and causes significant pain, functional limitation and psychosocial distress for affected patients. In cases of genital and perineal involvement, HS can have a profound impact on quality of life, sexual function and overall well-being. Severe, recurrent cases of the disease are commonly not amenable to medical therapy. Wide surgical resection with reconstruction is the only curative therapy for HS, yet there is no consensus on surgical techniques that produce the most favorable outcomes in recalcitrant cases of this difficult to treat disease. This presentation provides a review of the evidence for varied techniques used to treat this debilitating problem when more conventional, non-surgical methods have failed. Success in our practice has been with wide surgical resection and wound management with local tissue rearrangements, skin grafting and occasional local flap reconstruction. Strategies in the management of these difficult problems will be addressed.

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