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Pressure ulcers in several wards of a secondary care hospital

Eduardo Stegensek

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico

Objective: To describe the epidemiological characteristics of pressure ulcers and of the affected population and to estimate the direct costs of care at a secondary level hospital.

Methodology: Descriptive and cross-sectional study, in which the entire population over 18 years old from the following medical units was evaluated: General Surgery ward, Plastic Surgery ward, Internal Medicine ward and Intensive Care Unit of a secondary care hospital. Each patient was evaluated daily for 30 consecutive days through the application of a clinical record format.

Results: 218 patients were evaluated, of which 61 had one or more pressure ulcers, detecting 378 wounds. The crude prevalence rate was 27.98%, and the incidence rate was 13.30%. The mean age of the affected patients was 61.4+/- 20.94. The most frequent pathologies were cardiovascular diseases. Most of patients with pressure ulcers had some type of incontinence, and/or were overweight. The mean score in the Braden scale was 12.5 +/- 2.83. The greatest proportion of pressure ulcers were localized on the heels, sacrum and shoulder blades, 81.5% being Category I. The direct costs of pressure ulcer care were estimated in \$6,457.64 MXN per capita a day.

Conclusion: Pressure ulcers are still a problem for patients hospitalized in secondary care units, requiring the intervention of the operative level, healthcare managers and authorities alike, the enhancement of material and human resources and the creation of healthcare politics focalized on prevention and attention of pressure ulcers.

eduardo.stegensek@consystar.com

Surgical management of vitiligo and other hypopigmentary disorders

Mats J Olsson

International Vitiligo Center, Sweden

To overcome the lack of response in many patients to pharmacological and UV-treatments; a number of surgical techniques to transplant back pigment cells to the white lesions have been developed. Several of these techniques have been used in clinical practice for many years and have formed an important part of the arsenal of standard treatments used today. The methods can be used to repigment the skin in vitiligo, piebaldism, halo naevi, burn wounds and chemical leucoderma. In segmental vitiligo, piebaldism and burn wounds, transplantation methods are often the only effective means to restore the pigmentation in the affected areas.

At the lecture I will share my experience in the field of Vitiligo with you and discuss:

- Why surgical treatments are such important approaches in repigmentation therapy.
- What kinds of leucoderma are possible to treat? Possibilities and limits!
- The foundation for the surgical decision making process and selection of appropriate patients.
- An easy to grasp summery of the current transplantation techniques and methods for preparing the recipient site.
- Advantages and disadvantages of specific methods.
- Limitations and strategy depending on the locations of the anatomical areas to be treated.
- A slightly more detailed direction of the three most useful transplantation methods.
- The importance of appropriate information to the patient.

mats.j.olsson@parkcell.se