Title: The Effects of Foam Wound Dressings on Wound Healing and Patient Outcomes

Objectives (of project and/or presentation): To evaluate the quality of wound healing, patient comfort, and patient quality of life using foam dressings on wounds.

Introduction OR Rationale: Ineffective wound dressings delay the healing time for a wound and decrease the patient’s quality of life. Effective wound management and dressing choice leads to an effective and timely wound healing process and increases patient satisfaction.

Methods: The (de-identified) Library, CINAHL and Medline databases were used in order to obtain a variety of research articles that relate to the literature review topic. The keywords “foam dressing” and “wound” were used to search for the articles and generate a master list.

Results OR Practice Implications: Foam dressings show significant improvements in wound healing and patient satisfaction including patient comfort, reduction of exudate, maintenance of a moist wound bed, reduction of pain on dressing changes, increased wear time, increased durability and conformability, a barrier to contamination, allows postoperative inspection of the peri-wound area, protects newly formed tissue, maintains optimal moist environment without causing maceration to the surrounding skin, and is permeable to moisture and gas. Clinicians and patients both rated foam wound dressings as excellent.

Conclusions: Wounds treated with foam dressings result in effective wound healing, patient comfort, and a better quality of life which helps with a successful wound healing journey. Wounds are a serious health care issue that causes problems for the patient and the health care providers. Nurses can help positively impact the patients wound healing process by intervening and making evidence based practice changes in the health care industry. Foam dressings should always be used on any patient’s wound to provide the most efficient and effective way to promote wound healing, and to help improve the quality and comfort of the patient’s life.

References:


Funding Source: De-identified