

EVALUATION OF QL-INDEX* IN PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC WOUNDS OF LOWER LIMBS AFTER TREATMENT WITH GEL SURFACTANT WITH SILVER SULFADIAZINE

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* QL-Index is Quality of Life Index

As part of the observational study on the treatment of chronic skin lesions of lower limbs by the use of a gel surfactant with AG sulfadiazine (Plurogen)^{1,5} patients were administered a QL-Index questionnaire. Aim of the study was to evaluate the influence of the device in quality of life of patients as a result of modification of the clinical treatment³

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out with a follow-up period of 30 days and included 43 patients with 58 lesions (20 males and 23 females with ages between 26 and 92 years - average age 72.2 years). Patients were divided into 2 groups according to age (group A up to 70 years old with total of 12 patients having mean age 50.16 years and group B over 70 years old with total of 31 patients having mean age of 80.74 years).

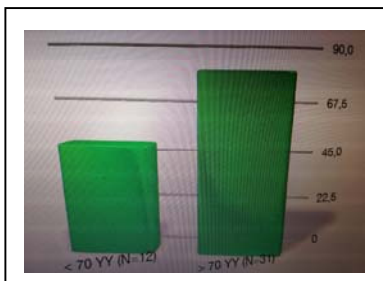


Table 1 - Average age of the age groups broken down

The administration of gel surfactant was performed 2 - 3 times a week according to clinical needs and organization of work at the wound center. The cleaning of the lesions was performed by the use of a cloth (Ulcer Clean System) soaked in the gel surfactant and aloe barbadensis. This allowed removal of the surface layer of the lesion keeping the periwound skin hydrated. This was then followed by the application of a thin layer of gel surfactant and then a secondary dressing and a bandage of high stiffness when necessary^{2,4}. The measurements were performed by the same operator for each center and all operators were vascular surgeons who had received the same training in wound care. Patients were given the questionnaire and QL-Index before treatment, on day 15 and at day 0.

RESULTS

The results from completion of the questionnaire QL-Index at time 0 showed an average of 11.41 in group A and 9.96 in group B. That average progressively increased. On the 15th day the values were 12.25 and 10.32 in group A and in group B respectively and then reached values of 12.83 and 10.74 respectively on the 30th day of observation.

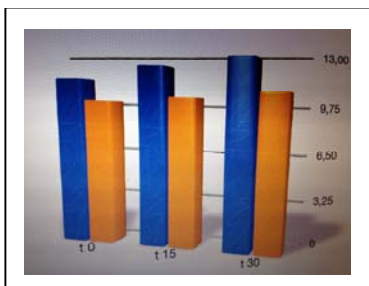


Table 2 - Media --- QL index before and after the application of gel surfactant

These values reflected the clinically observed results in the management of wounds, especially the reduction of pain, both during dressing changes and the time the device was on the wound between dressing changes.

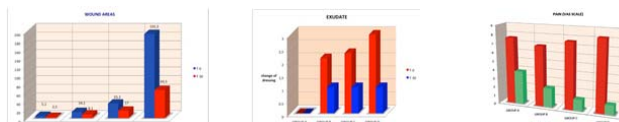


Table 3 - Clinical results of the study with the gel surfactant Ag sulfadiazine (EWMA, Wien, 2012)

* The patients in the study were divided into 4 groups according to the size of the lesions.



Fig 1 - Wash cloth soaked with UCS

DISCUSSION

The administration of the questionnaire allowed QL-Index quantification through a standard method used in geriatric clinical data collection to express the patients' quality of life progress during the treatment of wounds. In this way, we correlated the evolution of the wound to the patient's behavior and state of mind, particularly in the elderly, and we noticed a rise in the mood with a consequent revival of the patient's interaction and relationship with others. Limitations of the study were the short observation time and the small sample of patients examined. The disappearance of smelling exudate and the progressive reduction of exudate definitely contributed to the improvement of the general state of the patients, confirming once again the need to apply wound care protocols that take into account the holistic view of the patient with chronic skin lesions of lower limbs.



Fig 2 - Apply the gel surfactant and secondary dressing

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