



CONTENTS

Preface		
Barbara Pieper	19	A.A. 2548

xi

Overview: Acute and Chronic Wounds		
JoAnne D. Whitney		191

Knowledge of normal wound healing and the changes associated with chronic wounds have advanced significantly. Distinct characteristics identified through basic and clinical studies are found in nonhealing wounds, including bacterial and growth factor imbalances, increased inflammatory responses, and proteolytic forces that tip the balance toward tissue degradation rather than repair. This article describes the alterations that reduce healing and that also have important implications for the management of chronic wounds and presents a focus for future developments in wound therapy.

Microbiology of Chronic Leg and Pressure Ulcers: Clinical Significance and Implications for Treatment		
John R. Ebright		207

This article discusses the use of topical antimicrobial agents for promoting healing in clinically uninfected wounds. Chronic pressure and leg ulcers are predictably colonized by multiple microorganisms including anaerobic and aerobic bacteria. In most instances, these organisms are clinically irrelevant and do not warrant antibiotic treatment. Topical or systemic antibiotics are indicated for the treatment of patients with invasive infection and before ulcer closure, if quantitative tissue culture is positive. However, treating patients with topical antimicrobial agents for clinically uninfected but slowly healing wounds cannot be recommended at this time. Currently, evidence is insufficient to support routine use of antimicrobial agents for this purpose.

Dorothy Doughty

This article presents the principles of topical therapy for wound care and provides guidelines for product selection based on the wound characteristics and response to treatment. The treatment choices that are discussed distinguish between passive support of a wound and a variety of active wound therapies designed to promote the repair process in wounds that fail to respond to standard therapy.

Wound Debridement: Therapeutic Options and Care Considerations

233

Janice M. Beitz

The understanding and implementation of wound debridement have assumed greater importance as preparation of the wound bed has become central to chronic wound care. Multiple methods of wound debridement are available, and evidence-based practice suggestions for appropriate usage are becoming increasingly available. Implications for up-to-date nursing care, patient education, and psychosocial, culturally competent interventions related to wound debridement are addressed in this article.

Support Surfaces: Beds, Mattresses, Overlays—Oh My!

251

Dianne Mackey

This article presents the current understanding of the scientific evidence relating to the efficacy of support surfaces and discusses the risk factors that contribute to skin breakdown. Different classes and features of support surfaces and the reimbursement structure across the care continuum are summarized. An update on the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel's sponsored Support Surface Initiative is presented.

Facilitating Positive Outcomes in Older Adults with Wounds

267

Nancy A. Stotts and Harriet W. Hopf

Aging affects wound healing and wound care in older persons. Biological changes that occur with age can result in delayed healing, increased wound infection, and a greater incidence of dehiscence. Physiologic changes in sensory processes, cognition, and functional status in the older person affect overall wound management. Clinicians need to understand how changes associated with aging impact the older person so they can facilitate optimal wound healing in this large and growing population.

Wound Care at End of Life

281

Stephanie Myers Schim and Bernadette Cullen

Quality end-of-life care is recognized as an essential component of quality of life. This article integrates core end-of-life concepts with wound care principles. Common trajectories and phases of dying are reviewed. Considerations for wound prevention and care in various phases of death and dying are suggested, and inclusion of patient and family in goal setting and care are discussed.

Wound Care Issues in the Patient with Cancer

295

Mary A. Gerlach

Patients with cancer suffer from impaired wound healing caused by immunosuppression, side effects of cancer treatment, and from alterations in nutrition. Care of the cancer patient with a wound requires an understanding of normal wound healing and the special circumstances that may exist in cancer. This article presents an overview of the relationship of wounds and cancer including commonly seen malignant cutaneous wounds, injury from chemotherapy extravasations, and radiation injury along with evidence-based nursing management.

The Challenges of Obesity and Skin Integrity

325

Susan Gallagher

As the occurrence of obesity reaches epidemic proportions, the rising numbers of obese patients affect health care delivery in multiple ways. Many hospitals report inadequate equipment, policies, and personnel to accommodate the needs of larger patients. Skin care becomes a clinical challenge in many cases and is at particular risk for injury during a hospitalization, especially in the presence of obesity. This article defines obesity and presents the demographics, clinical challenges, skin and wound issues, and the legal implications present in the treatment of obese patients.

Spinal Cord Injury and Pressure Ulcers

337

Maria Helena Larcher Caliri

Spinal cord injury is cited as one of the most devastating injuries and places an individual at high risk for pressure ulcers. This article examines the research about pressure ulcers in patients with spinal cord injuries and provides guidelines for wound prevention. It also provides guidelines for patient and caregiver education, which are critical in pressure ulcer prevention and treatment.

Injection Drug Use and Wound Care

349

Barbara Pieper and John A. Hopper

Persons who inject illicit drugs are at risk for many wound types. Two types of wounds commonly seen in patients who abuse drugs are ulcers that remain after an abscess is drained and lower extremity ulcers caused by chronic venous insufficiency. This article presents issues related to patient assessment, wound management, pain, patient teaching, and wound prevention associated with injected drug abuse.

Pressure Ulcers: The Great Insult

365

JoAnn Maklebust

This article summarizes the controversies in the current literature regarding the causes, natural history, and staging systems of pressure ulcers. Discussions on quality improvement, pressure ulcer surveillance, and regulatory oversight are included. This article addresses the unanswered questions regarding whether all pressure ulcers are preventable and whether all of them will heal.

Lower Extremity Arterial and Venous Ulcers

391

Mary Sieggreen

Major contributions to the understanding and management of leg ulcers and wound healing have been made in the last decade. There is still confusion about the exact mechanism of ulcer development and the best method to manage, cure, and prevent them. This article reviews the anatomy of the lower extremity vascular system and discusses arterial and venous leg ulcers. Characteristics of each type of ulcer are described, and the management of underlying vascular disease to support ulcer healing is presented.

Index

411