

CONTENTS

Preface

Heather Jones

ix

Preoperative Assessment of the Surgical Patient

Leslie M. Plauntz

361

Nurses play an important role in the preassessment of surgical patients. With the rise in free-standing surgical clinics and the move of many surgical procedures to office-based surgical clinics, quality patient care could be compromised. Preassessment of surgical patients in office-based and hospital clinics ensures quality patient care from the moment patients enter the office to when they are discharged from care. The process of preoperative evaluation is essential in assessing the medical condition of patients, evaluating their overall health status, determining risk factors, and educating them. Surgical preassessment benefits patients, physicians, and nurses by not only improving surgical outcomes and patient satisfaction but also ensuring patient safety. Nurses employed in office-based surgical suites require specialized knowledge and clinical skills to offer continued, well-informed care to their patients.

The Role of Sentinel Node Biopsy in Patients with Cutaneous Melanoma

Lakshi M. Aldredge

379

The role of sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) as a prognostic indicator in melanoma patients has been controversial in the fields of surgical oncology and dermatology for decades. This minimally invasive surgical technique was introduced in 1990 for diagnosing melanoma lymphatic metastases and has been deemed the standard of surgical care of cutaneous malignant melanoma by the World Health Organization and the Sunbelt Melanoma Clinical Trial. Its usefulness as a prognostic indicator of metastases led to expanded applications for breast, colon, gastric, esophageal, head and neck, thyroid, and lung cancers. This article first provides an overview of cutaneous melanoma and staging methods and

treatment modalities. A brief study of the lymphatic system and the SLNB procedure are reviewed, followed by a discussion of its usefulness in patients who have melanoma, including risks and benefits. This article also discusses nursing considerations for patients undergoing the procedure, and patient education tips. Lastly, future indications for SLNB and new prognostic indicators for melanoma are discussed.

Nurse-Administered Laser in Dermatology

393

Heather Jones

Nurses have become an essential part of patient care in laser therapy. In dermatology, the potential for helping patients achieve excellent results for individual skin needs is exponential when combined with appropriate technology, evidence-based care, and a competent, conscientious nurse. This article explains how a laser functions, outlines the use of lasers in treating particular dermatologic conditions, provides guidelines for posttreatment care, and discusses the nurse's role in providing laser treatment.

Atopic Dermatitis

407

Susan Tofte

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic inflammatory skin disease characterized by intense pruritus and frequent relapsing courses. It occurs mostly in patients who have a personal or family history of other atopic conditions, such as asthma or allergic rhinitis. The prevalence of AD is high, particularly in children, with rapidly increasing numbers in the past few decades. The chronicity of this disease, along with its relapsing nature, presents treatment and management challenges for clinicians and frustration for patients and their families.

Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma: Overview and Nursing Perspectives

421

Sue A. McCann

Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) is an uncommon and complex malignancy of the immune system with a wide range of clinical presentations primarily involving the skin. An extensive menu of skin-directed and/or systemic treatment options exists. Best practices in management involve multidisciplinary collaboration. Nursing care for patients who have CTCL is a critical component in the successful management of the disease and requires special attention to the patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Nurses can make a significant impact by being accessible, offering emotional support, demonstrating advocacy, and providing ongoing education for the patient and family.

Using Angiogenesis in Chronic Wound Care with Becaplermin and Oxidized Regenerated Cellulose/Collagen

457

Clair Hollister and Vincent W. Li

For most of the last century, chronic wound care was a practice of passive techniques, designed to prevent the progression of the wound. In the last decade, however, advanced techniques have focused on improving the wound at the molecular level to accelerate wound healing. Successful modalities include tissue-engineered products, hyperbaric oxygen, negative pressure therapy, electrical stimulation, and recombinant growth factors. This shift in the treatment of wound care saw the development of a recombinant human platelet-derived growth factor, becaplermin, which stimulates granulation and increases the incidence of complete wound closure. Another product is oxidized regenerated cellulose/collagen, which protects growth factors and granulation tissue by inhibiting wound proteases. Used together, an optimal environment for wound healing can be created.

Psoriasis: Hope for the Future

467

Mary Sullivan-Whalen and Patricia Gilleaudeau

This article provides a history and statistics of psoriasis. A description of the disease follows, including a clinical presentation and pathogenesis and a description of a person with the disease. Therapeutic options are presented, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. The last section discusses how to decide what treatment should be undertaken.

Aging Skin: Causes, Treatments, and Prevention

485

Paula E. Bermann

Intrinsic and extrinsic aging of the skin follow different pathways, but the end result is similar. Treatment options include cosmeceuticals, laser rejuvenation, chemical peels, and microdermabrasion. Preventing the effects of extrinsic aging involves using sunscreen—the right product, used in the right amount, at the right time, in the right places.