Incontinence is associated with increased incidences of healthcare related falls for certain patient populations, infection, cleaning and skin integrity problems, and other skin injuries. This survey involved medical, nurses, and rehab specialists working in three acute care hospitals. The pilot survey was conducted over a 24-hour period with a planned frequency of one（1） per week for 3 months at each hospital. Total patient census was 2,600 total patients per week. The prevalence of this study was 20.3% (198/976) patients with a Foley catheter for the purposes of this study. Among incontinent patients, 35% (69/198) had a Foley catheter (40% of these patients had a urinary tract infection (UTI)).

This survey included the following: the need for operational definitions for perineal dermatitis as differentiated from other skin injuries, 18% fungal infection. Of those patients, 21% (42/198) had more than one type of injury. Of the patients with incontinence, 33% (66) had a Foley catheter for the purposes of this study. Of these patients, 7% (5) had a catheter (40% of these patients had a urinary tract infection (UTI)).

Incontinent patients could have >1 perineal skin injury. This survey prompted all three pilot sites to re-evaluate containment product choices in their facilities and implement strategies to enhance it.

Incontinence was defined as urinary or stool incontinence. A requirement of the data collectors was the ability to differentiate perineal skin injury between pressure ulcers, well defined edges—simple contact dermatitis is peeling like a sunburn. Over sacrum, may be butterfly shaped or oval; over coccyx (tailbone) oval shaped. Satellite lesions—red spots.

Definitive areas of improvement:产品 are the ability to differentiate perineal skin injury amongst patients with incontinence, dermatitis, burns, abrasions, and other injuries.

Incontinence Prevalence in Acute Care*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incontinence</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure Ulcers</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perineal Dermatitis</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fungal Infection</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (2%)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total patient census was 1,986 with complete data present in this analysis. There was an equal mix of male and female patients surveyed.

Data Collection

This survey is the first to define the prevalence of incontinence and perineal skin injury in acute care. Clearly, incontinence with fecal involvement is prevalent. Issues identified as a result of this survey include the need for operational definitions for perineal dermatitis as differentiated from other skin injuries, identification of risk factors, and exploration of the role products play in prevention and treatment.

DEFINITIONS

- Pressure Ulcers: Open area of skin where there has been loss of fat and muscle with a full thickness loss of tissue with undermining of skin edges.
- Perineal Dermatitis: Dry, irritated skin with erythema, peeling, and sometimes burning.
- Fungal Infection: Red skin, peeling, and burning.
- Other: Any injuries not specifically mentioned above.

RESULTS

Incontinence Prevalence in Acute Care

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*Total patient census was 1,986 with complete data present in this analysis. There was an equal mix of male and female patients surveyed.

Incontinence vs. Perineal Skin Injury

- Skin injury was more prevalent (38%, 375/986) in patients placed on containment products than in those who were not (8%, 8/106).
- Although research supports the effect of patient pressure foam and back and bed barrier products on skin integrity, the frequent contact time with these devices may hinder patients’ ability to experience skin integrity products in their facilities and implement strategies to enhance it.
- Revealingly, 40% of incontinent patients had multiple containment products used, the most frequent being cloth and plastic backed pad and a simple cloth pad.
- This practice, however, was not supported by research and product selection guidelines. To produce optimal results, research and product guidelines should be followed to enhance skin integrity products that could be used to enhance and optimize skin protection.

CONCLUSION

- Skin injury is common in acute care. Skin injury is prevalent in patient populations that have had recent procedures. Clearly, incontinence with fecal involvement is prevalent. Issues identified as a result of this survey include the need for operational definitions for perineal dermatitis as differentiated from other skin injuries, identification of risk factors, and exploration of the role products play in prevention and treatment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors also acknowledge receipt of funding support from Ingate Products, Inc. for research development and the grant presentation.

REFERENCES


IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Skin injury is very common in acute care. Skin injury is prevalent in patient populations that have had recent procedures. Clearly, incontinence with fecal involvement is prevalent. Issues identified as a result of this survey include the need for operational definitions for perineal dermatitis as differentiated from other skin injuries, identification of risk factors, and exploration of the role products play in prevention and treatment.

DATA COLLECTION

- The pilot survey was conducted at three geographically diverse acute care hospitals in the spring of 2005. Adult and pediatric medical and surgical specialties. Units excluded were Psychiatric, Long Term Care, and satellite facilities.
- Setting patients data collection tool which could indicate a lack of standardization in care practices. It should be noted that in a regulatory environment, the role of skin integrity products in preventing or delaying skin injury should be used in conjunction with product selection, use, and training to ensure optimal results.
- It is important for bedside clinicians to be able to identify and differentiate skin injury related to incontinence for treatment to produce optimal patient outcomes.
- The tool consisted of two (2) forms:
- The Patient Information Form was used to record gender, age group, and incontinence status on all inpatients. If the patient data collection tool which could indicate a lack of standardization in care practices. It should be noted that in a regulatory environment, the role of skin integrity products in preventing or delaying skin injury should be used in conjunction with product selection, use, and training to ensure optimal results.

SETTINGS & PATIENT POPULATIONS

- The pilot survey was validated at those geographically diverse acute care units in the spring of 2005. Adult and pediatric medical and surgical specialties. Units excluded were Psychiatric, Long Term Care, and satellite facilities.
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