

PRESSURE ULCER: BOTTOM LINE

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Background Information: The length of time a patient is in one position in the operating room is always recorded, while the pre-operative and post-operative time is not. Evidence-based information tells us, two to three hours in one position can lead to pressure ulcers. Patient operated on in the supine position are most likely to remain in the same position throughout the peri-operative experience, thus; they are more prone to prolonged tissue pressure and to the development of an ulcer.

Objectives of Project:

1. Involve peri-operative areas in the existing focus of the acute care and ICU's on pressure ulcer prevention.
2. Evaluate and reduce length of time patient stays in one position during the peri-operative course.
3. Improve and identify further pressure ulcer prevention.

Process of Implementation:

1. Data on one hundred seventy three in and same day admit patients undergoing operation (abdominal surgeries only) were gathered, including length of time and other co-morbidities that affects skin integrity.
2. Plan of care established.
3. Braden Scale is done from admission to pre-op time until discharge from PACU and on the first post op day.
4. Special attention is given to the bony prominences affected by the supine position.
5. Patient educated on importance of positioning and early mobilization prior to surgery.

Statement of Successful Practice:

1. Peri-operative group work as a collaborative team to prevent pressure development in peri-operative setting.
2. Coordination and cooperation between peri-operative and other hospital staff creates a safe and healing environment for the patient and their significant other.
3. Patient participation in relation to pre op and post op mobilization increased.
4. Number of patient transfer to designated unit increased to encourage and improve early mobilization.
5. On follow up, none of the subjects experienced skin breakdown except for those with open sores upon admission.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Keep up with advances in science and technology, attend seminars/symposiums help nurses and other health professionals learn new methods of patient care management, thus; results to a safe caring environment, which in turn improve patient care, safety and satisfaction.