

00535 Early Detection of MRSA in Stage 3 and 4 Pressure Ulcer in Geriatric Patients: Clinical Implications and Outcomes

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Aims: Pressure ulcers are frequently colonized with several different organisms. Early identification of patients colonized with Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and taking preventive measures can prevent patient-to-patient spread through infection control measures. Swab cultures are probably the most commonly used method to detect the organism. However, they are debatable, especially when obtained from chronic wounds. Healthcare workers' hands are easily contaminated during the process of caregiving. Thus, precautions are needed to prevent nosocomial MRSA infection. The aim of the study is to promptly detect MRSA infection amongst the hospitalized elderly patients with stage 3 and 4 pressure ulcers to reduce risk of MRSA bacteraemia.

Methodology: The study will recruit elderly patients aged 65 and above with stage 3 and 4, unstageable pressure ulcers. Healthcare workers will take early contact precaution as for MRSA patient till swab result proven as negative. Swab for MRSA from the identified patients will be obtained using Levine's method as ordered by primary physicians.

Result: 8 (57%) out of the 14 patients Levine swab on arrival shown MRSA positive. Out of the 8 cases, 50% had unstageable pressure ulcers, 37.5% with stage 4 and 12.5% with stage 3. On the other hand, for non- MRSA pressure ulcer on arrival 83% had stage 3 pressure ulcers and 17% had unstageable. Majority of patients (N=8, 57%) with pressure injury of unstageable, Stage 3-4 had shown the possibility of presence of MRSA.

Conclusion: This study has resulted and shown early preventive measures specific to at-risk patients can be taken once patients have existing stage 3, 4 and unstageable pressure ulcers so as to reduce the risk of spreading MRSA.