

Burns Management in Resource limited setting.

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Abstract

A prospective study done at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka between April and July 2004 in which Wet Warm Nappies were used to dress burn wounds frequently and traditional methods used for management of wounds. Silver sulphadiazine cream been the traditional antiseptic used for dressing burn wounds. The outcome in terms of Period of Hospital stay and Mortality were used as a yardstick for comparison.

The results were such that patients in group A who used wet warm soaks stayed shortest in the hospital (average of 5.5days). Those using the traditional method stayed average of 8.5days. The mortality for group A was 15.5% while for the rest was 19%. The age distribution in both groups was comparable (4 months to 61years). Body surface area burnt was also similar and ranged from 10% to 30%.

The results showed that using wet warm saline soaks changed frequently on burnt wounds enhanced wound healing and reduced mortality rates. The methods are easy and do not need an trained nurse or close supervision. Mothers or guardians could be taught on the day of arrival on the ward and the occasional supervisory check to see that the methods are properly used is all one needs to do.

The study period of four months was short and it hoped that a longer period be used. However, it is obvious that the use of wet warm saline soaks changed frequently on fresh burns will enhance healing especially when there is associated nutritional support of eggs and milk.

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