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Incontinence and Skin Integrity in Immobile Populations

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Incontinence and Skin Integrity in

Immobile Populations

Frederick Green and Alyssa Starr

What We Learned

While skin care is often a focus of nurse theory, it is also commonly overlooked in the healthcare setting as more 'pressing matters' may take priority. Skin care is a crucial part of health care. We found that without proper care, many patients developed pressure ulcers which put them at a dramatically increased risk to developing bacterial colonization. We also found that with proper care, pressure ulceration can be prevented.

Background

Using CINHAL and EBSCO we were able to acquire substantial background information on the topic of skin care – specifically in immobile populations.

Purpose & Aims

- Identify a need within our population
- Acknowledge associated risks
- Find ways to prevent Pressure Ulceration and related infection

Sample

- Fecal or Urinary Incontinence
- Indwelling catheters
- Stage II or greater Pressure ulcer already present
- Hospitalized

Methods

We scoured the web for pertinent sources.
See Background.

Results



Discussion

- Interestingly Perineal Pouches are more effective at preventing pressure ulcers than traditional briefs.
- Improvements could have been made by using wider samples and through more thorough evaluations
- One study suggested that healthcare providers stop using incontinence briefs entirely. However this study did not suggest an alternative.

Next Steps

- Expand research to more transferable populations
- Increase the amount of education given to nurses
- Maintain proper care standards

Limitations

- High Dropout Rate during the study
- Age differences between male and female participants
- Not following a participant for their entire stay in the hospital

Acknowledgments

We would not have been able to find our research without the support of Walt Cressler: Librarian.