



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Submitting author: Mr K W LAM

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Queen Mary Hospital

Reduction of Tracheostomy Peristomal Breakdown By Using New Dressing Protocol

Lam KW(1), Cheung KY(2)

Department of Neurosurgery, Queen Mary Hospital

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Introduction

Objectives

Tracheostomy is a common procedure in neurosurgical unit. However, tracheostomy peristomal skin breakdown has been identified as an important patient care issue. The promotion of healing and prevention of skin breakdown is essential.

Methodology

A new standardized protocol for immediate postoperative care of tracheostomy patients, which was initiated in November 2015 in our unit.

In old days, we cleanse the peristomal skin by using normal saline followed by application of key hole dressing.

After introduction of new dressing protocol, we cleanse the peristomal skin with normal saline and we apply the " Barrier Film " dressing before application of key hole dressing.

Result

Reduction of peristomal skin breakdown of the tracheostomy wound. We compared historical control data from a 6-month period, to data from a subsequent 6-month intervention phase. We retrospectively reviewed the medical record from June 2015 to November 2015 (Old dressing protocol) and from December 2015 to May 2016 (New dressing protocol). We reviewed the medical record that to see the prevalence of skin breakdown from June 2015 to Nov 2015, there were 9 patients (45%) suffered from skin breakdown. However, from December 2015 to May 2016, there were 4 patients (22.2%) suffering from skin breakdown. Tracheostomy peristomal breakdown decreased from the baseline 45% to 22.2 %.