Dressings

USE OF A MICROBIAL CELLULOSE DRESSING: OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS ON DONOR SITES

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Introduction: Split-thickness skin graft donor sites cause extensive damage to skin tissue and often show healing problems. Donor site-pain and resulting immobility is probably the most disturbing complication in the postoperative period.

Aim: Improving the healing process of patients suffering from split-thickness skin grafts by using a microbial cellulose dressing* to treat the donor site, overcoming problems as pain, disfigured scar tissue or poor wound healing leading to regular wound care by a nurse.

Methods: A clinical evaluation was carried out in our hospital. Eleven burn care patients with split-thickness skin grafts were included and treated with the microbial cellulose dressing*. Parameters handling, wound pain, wearing comfort and quality and quantity of regenerated tissue were measured.

Results: Pain: Already 24h postoperative the mean pain score was low. After 7 days none of the patients indicated any pain on the donor site any more. Dressing changes: For 10 patients a dressing change wasn’t necessary. Monitoring took place daily, pressure bandages were applied for 24h followed by a protection bandage for up to 5 days. Wound healing: After 3 weeks 9 of the wounds were completely re-epithelialised. Quality of the scar tissue was rewarded as good. Removal of the dressing was classified easy after 2-3 weeks, wearing comfort was rewarded as convenient already 24h postoperative.

Conclusion: This microbial cellulose dressing* overcomes the problems in the treatment of donor sites: it reduces pain during wound healing, prevents from arising a non-healing wound and shows very good results on scar tissue.

*Cuticell®Epigraft