Reducing Patient Pressure Sore Incidence in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit

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Abstract

Background: Pressure ulcers were an increasingly significant problem among patients in the authors' ward. The eight patients diagnosed with pressure ulcers (0.42% of all inpatients) during the first half of 2009 represented a 140% increase over the first half of 2008 (0.28% of all inpatients).

Purpose: This project was designed to reduce pressure ulcer incidence in the surgical intensive care unit (ICU) to 0.05%.

Methods: Intervention measures included: 1) holding professional training on preventing pressure ulcers; 2) specifying appropriate patient turnover tools; 3) creating and distributing to nurses a proper turnover technique and positioning manual; 4) creating and distributing to nurses a comprehensive patient skin inspection checklist; and 5) organizing a permanent pressure ulcer care quality and audit committee.

Results: Pressure ulcer incidence fell from 0.42% to 0.04% following implementation of the methods.

Conclusion: Results demonstrate the effectiveness of using the proposed methods to reduce pressure ulcer incidence and enhance nursing care quality.

Key Words: reduction, pressure sores, occurrence rate, surgical intensive care unit.

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