

Use of Fish Skin Graft and Negative Pressure Wound Therapy of a Hematoma Induced Calf Wound after a Fall

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Introduction

Falls are the leading cause of injuries in older adults. Falls can cause damage to not only bone and joints but to the underlying soft tissue and skin.

Case Series

A 77 year old male with past medical history of end stage renal disease, diabetes mellitus, peripheral vascular disease, CHF, pituitary tumor, and platelet dysfunction secondary to end stage renal disease presented to the emergency room with left leg swelling and redness after he sustained a fall. He was

Case Series cont.

diagnosed with a hematoma of his leg. Attempts were made at the time to drain it at bedside, but were unsuccessful. He returned 10 days later with worsening appearance and symptoms. Surgical intervention with debridement of the tissue was done. The hematoma extended through the fascial layer, which left a significant wound on his leg. The patient underwent weekly Fish skin graft substitutes, along with negative pressure wound therapy. There was a total of 20 Fish skin grafts applied, which healed in 210 days.



Figure 1 . Representative of discoloration to his lower extremities. (a)After initial attempt to drain bedside. (b) Continued to deteriorate and was admitted 10 days later (c) Deterioration from the hematoma (d and e) Surgical intervention 17 days after initial presentation (f) 2 days after surgery with Negative pressure wound therapy 3x a week with graft on a weekly basis

Discussion

Tissue damage after falls can be significant when hematomas are involved. This is a successful case with a patient with multiple comorbidities healing a large tissue deficit healing with a Fish skin graft.

References

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