

Operative treatment of pressure ulcers using pedicled flaps

Bielecki M.^{1 A-F}, Bielecki P.^{2 A,D,E,F}, Żebrowski P.^{3 A,B,D,E}, Misiak B.^{4D,E,F}, Lewko J.^{5D,E,F}

1. Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology Medical University of Białystok, Poland
2. Department of Laryngology Medical University of Białystok, Poland
3. Division Orthopedic Trauma Regional Hospital in Białystok, Poland
4. University of Medical Science in Białystok, Poland
5. Department of Integrated Medical Care, Medical University of Białystok, Poland

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The objective of this paper was to present the results of surgical treatment concerning pressure ulcers.

Materials and methods: All patients underwent surgical treatment at the Orthopedics and Traumatology Clinic during the period of 1997-2016. The procedures were performed by one operator. A total of 28 pressure ulcers were operated (25 patients). The clinical material consisted of: 15 pressure ulcers located in lower back area, 6 pressure ulcers located in ischial area, 3 pressure ulcers located in trochanteric area and 4 pressure ulcers located in heel area.

Results: One conducted the result evaluation based on the criteria of complications proposed by Seiler. In case of all surgically treated patients pressure ulcers healed after 2-5 weeks after the surgery. One patient experienced hematoma below the flap. One could observe seroma in case of 5 patients. In this

situation it was required to apply a local postoperative puncture. 4 patients experienced marginal skin necrosis (2 of them required resection of dead skin edges in operating theatre which were later re-stitched using “side to side” technique). During the 3-year follow-up there was no recurrence of operated pressure ulcers.

Conclusion: Deep septic pressure ulcers, according to the division introduced by Seiler, connected with bone infection require the application of musculocutaneous flaps. This procedure is aimed at improving local tissue blood supply. Proper preoperative preparation of the patient, careful planning of the surgery and suitable postoperative treatment of the patient are as significant as the surgery itself.

Keywords: surgically treated pressure ulcers, sacral pressure ulcers, ischial pressure ulcers, heel pressure ulcers, pedicled flaps, musculocutaneous flaps

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