

Posey® SkinSleeves™ Protector

A PREVENTION PROTOCOL THAT SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED SKIN TEARS AND WOUND CARE COSTS

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Statement of the Problem

Skin tears cause pain for the individual and increase the cost of care for residents in long-term care facilities.¹ Each year, an estimated 1.5 million skin tears occur among the institutionalized elderly.² Literature suggests that mild skin cleansers, moisturizers, and skin sleeves are among the interventions that will assist in the reduction of skin tears.^{2,3,4,5}



Objectives

- Describe the impact of skin tears on patients.
- Identify the impact of skin tears on a facility.
- List interventions relevant to decreasing skin tears.

Setting

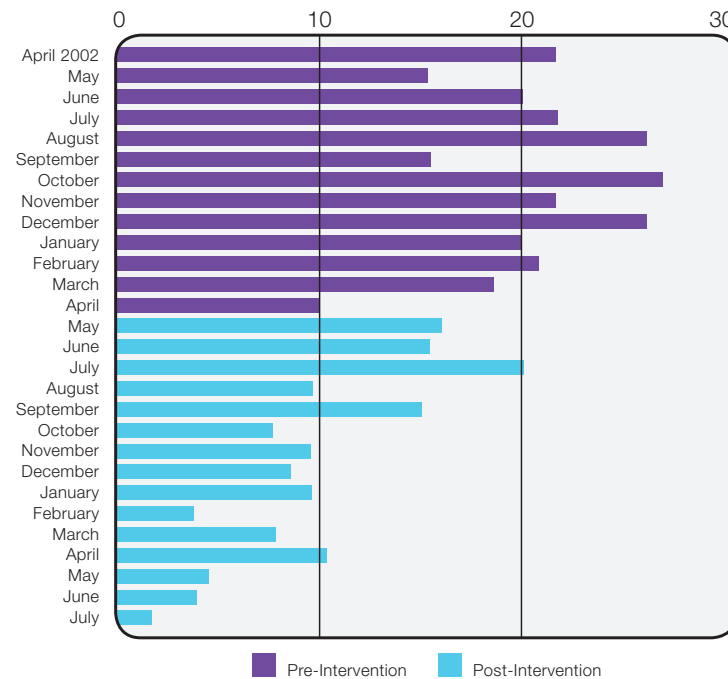
209-bed urban nursing and rehabilitation center.

Methodology

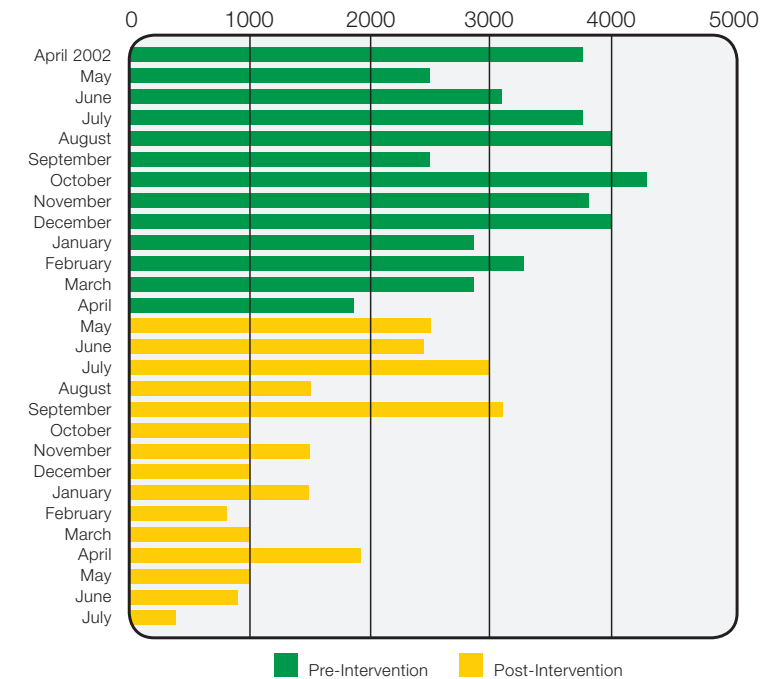
To assess the clinical effectiveness of the protocol, a 13-month retrospective pre-intervention data collection followed by a 15-month post-intervention skin tear incidence data collection was conducted among all patients.

Results

Nosocomial Skin Tears Per Month



Dressing Change Cost Per Month



53% decrease in skin tear incidence with an estimated cost savings of \$20,376 annually.

- Skin tears changed from a mean of 18.7 to a mean of 8.7 per month (P <0.001) after interventions implemented (53% decrease).
- The average monthly reduction in nosocomial skin tears was projected to reduce dressing and labor costs of wound management by an average of \$1,698 per month.

Conclusion

Implementation of skin tear prevention protocols involving staff education, Posey SkinSleeves™ Protector, Padded Side Rails, mild skin cleansers and moisturizers lead to a significant reduction of skin tears with an estimated cost savings of \$20,376 annually.

Visit www.posey.com for a complete selection of Padded Side Rails.

Interventions

- Posey SkinSleeves™ and padded side rails for skin tear history.
- Gentle skin cleanser*
- Frequent moisturizing with a longer lasting lotion**
- Staff educated regarding risk identification and product use.

¹ Bank, D, Nix, D. Preventing skin tears in a nursing and rehabilitation center: an interdisciplinary effort. *Ostomy Wound Management*. 2006; 52(9):38-46
² Baranowski, S. How to prevent and manage skin tears. *Advances in Skin and Wound Care*. 2003;16(5):268-270.
³ Lablanc, K, Baranowski, S. Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and treatment of skin tears. *Wound Care Canada*, 2008; Volume 6 Number 1.
⁴ Lablanc, K, Baranowski, S. Prevention and Management of skin tears. *Advances in Skin Wound Care*. 2009; 22:325-32.
⁵ Ratliff, CR, Fletcher, KR. Skin tears: a review of the evidence to support prevention and treatment. *Ostomy Wound Management*. 2007 March; 53(3):32-4.
⁶ Roberts, MJ. Preventing and managing skin tears: a review. *Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing*. 2007 May-June; 34(3):256-9.

Product Notation:
 * Gentle Rain® Extra Mild Sensitive Skin Cleanser and Shampoo, Coloplast Corp., Minneapolis, MN 55411 U.S.A.
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