Preventing Pressure Ulcers/DTI in the Perioperative Setting

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Problem
- At a large teaching hospital there were eight Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers (HAPU), stage III or greater, that were reported to the state.
- Risk factors for pressure ulcers that occur in the perioperative area are decreased mobilization, poor nutrition and hydration, BMI <20 or >30, a low serum albumin, diastolic BP <50, according to literature review.
- Through a medical record review these cases shared the following:
  - anesthesia time >9 hours in a single case up to 38 hours over a few weeks
  - BMI under 20 or over 30
  - spinal cord injury patients
  - weight loss of 2% in the week before surgery
  - diastolic BP <50 during the procedure.
- All eight cases started out as suspected Deep Tissue Injuries (sDTI)
- The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) has defined sDTI as initially having the appearance of a deep bruise associated with pressure related injuries to the subcutaneous tissue under intact skin that later (up to 3 weeks) develops into a stage III or IV pressure ulcer despite optimal treatment.
- There is a strong link that HAPU are related to prolonged surgical procedures.
- sDTI 12 hours post 9 hour surgery

Significance
- The NPUAP states that pressure ulcers are a major health problem and pressure ulcer incidence is an indicator of quality of care.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid service will not reimburse care costs related to HAPUs because they are considered a preventable situation.

Current Policy and Procedure
- The RN will conduct an assessment using the Braden Scale upon admission and during each shift and within eight hours of a surgical procedure.
- Any pressure ulcer findings must be documented in the medical record.

Sample
- Direct observation of the assessment conducted by six nurses (pre-op and circulators)
- Assessment of current knowledge of pressure ulcer risk factors in 22 perioperative staff

Interventions
- The Wound Care Team and perioperative areas will collaborate in the use of pressure redistribution mattress overlays or pressure redistribution cushions to be used for each patient who has risk factors as listed above.
  - Surgery <2.5 hours or multiple surgeries
  - BMI <20 or >30
  - Spinal Cord Injuries
  - Diastolic Pressure <50
  - Weight loss of >2% in two weeks prior to surgery
- silicone foam dressings will be applied to the sacral area of each high-risk patient.
- Pressure redistribution mattress on an OR table
- Pressure redistribution cushion
- Silicone foam dressing applied to the sacrum
- The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) has
- Pressure mapping results show the effects of using a pressure redistribution mattress:
- The NPUAP states that pressure ulcers are a major health problem and pressure ulcer incidence is an indicator of quality of care.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid service will not reimburse care costs related to HAPUs because they are considered a preventable situation.

Expected Outcomes
- With the implementation of improved assessment practices among perioperative nurses in combination with the use of pressure redistribution products and foam dressings, there will be a decreased incidence of pressure ulcers/sDTIs from the perioperative setting.

Process Study on Assessment
- Two nurses asked about skin conditions
- None did a physical assessment
- All documented that there were no pressure ulcers

Results
- Pressure Ulcer Survey staff was asked to list five risk factors
  - 22 Staff responded
  - Oct. 18, 2011

Summary
- No risk assessment tool exists to assess pre-operatively what patients are at risk for the development of sDTIs.
- Gel mattress pads currently used in the perioperative area, however they are only effective for procedures that are two hours or less.
- Pressure mapping results show the effects of using a pressure redistribution mattress:

References