

Prophylactic use of ALLEVYN[®] GENTLE BORDER Sacrum Foam Dressing helped to reduce the incidence of sacral pressure ulcers (PUs) in high-risk patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) compared with prior practice

Nurses rated the dressing positively for ease of application/removal and repositioning, wear time, comfort and safety



Study overview

- An observational study to compare the incidence of PUs on the sacrum, buttocks and coccyx in high-risk patients 7 months before (October 2011 to April 2012) and 7 months after (May to November 2012) implementation of prophylactic use of ALLEVYN GENTLE BORDER Sacrum
- Complete data were available for 200 of 243 patients who were at high risk of developing PUs and received prophylactic ALLEVYN GENTLE BORDER Sacrum at three ICUs (surgical coronary care unit, medical coronary care unit and medical ICU) of the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Nurses performed skin inspections at least every 12 hours and changed the dressing every 3 days



Key results

- ALLEVYN GENTLE BORDER Sacrum rated positively for ease of application/removal and repositioning, wear time, comfort and safety
- Common reasons for prophylactic use of dressings were surgery >4hr or multiple surgeries >6hr (32.5%) and sepsis (23.5%)
- Mean dressing use duration was 3.26 days
- After implementation of ALLEVYN GENTLE BORDER Sacrum the incidence of PUs was reduced in all three ICUs compared with prior practice (Figure)
 - The surgical coronary care unit had the greatest reduction in PU incidence (7.62 per 1,000 patient days)
- Five patients discontinued dressing use (3 deep tissue injuries, 1 stage I PU, 1 sacral blister)

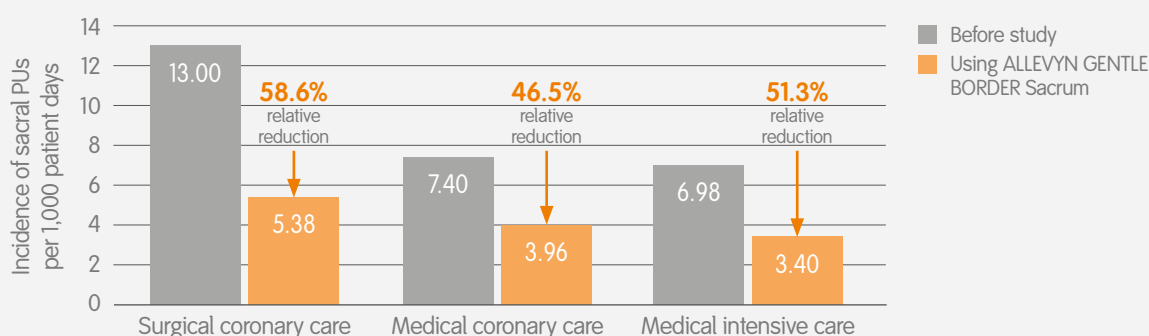


Figure. Incidence of sacral PUs (sacrum, buttocks and coccyx) per 1,000 patient days in three ICUs before and after implementation of ALLEVYN GENTLE BORDER Sacrum

Evidence in focus (continued)



Conclusion

After prophylactic use of ALLEVYN[®] GENTLE BORDER Sacrum for high-risk patients was implemented the incidence of PUs on the sacrum, buttocks and coccyx reduced in all three ICUs compared with prior practice.



Considerations

- Multiple PU prevention initiatives, including education and awareness programs, were ongoing at the time of the study



Study citation

*Byrne J, Nichols P, Sroczynski M, *et al.* Prophylactic sacral dressing for pressure ulcer prevention in high-risk patients. *Am J Crit Care*. 2016;25(3):228-234.

Available at: [American Journal of Critical Care](#)