The SWRWCP’s Superficial/Superficial Partial-Thickness Burn Assessment and Management Algorithm

Person with a Superficial/Superficial Partial-Thickness Burn

Assess
- "Initial Wound Assessment Form"
- "Nestle Mini Nutritional Assessment® Tool"
- "NPUAP PUSH Tool 3.0"
- "Determining Healanility Tool"

Treat the Cause

Moisture Balance and Dressing Selection
- Promote a moist wound healing environment in healable wounds
- Keep the wound clean and dry in maintenance/non-healable wounds
- Consider using the SWRWCP’s dressing selection and cleansing enablers to choose cleansing and dressing methods
- Consider "The Silver Hydrofiber Method For Superficial and Partial-Thickness Burns" dressing protocol

Reassess
- If the wound is healable and the surface area has not reduced 20-30% over a 3-4 week period, reassess the ENTIRE person again
- If the person and their wound are being managed according to best practice and the wound surface area has failed to reduce in size as expected, consider a referral to an ET, WCS or Plastic Surgeon (see "Criteria for Interdisciplinary Referrals")
- May need to consider adjunctive therapies, skin substitutes/flaps/grafts, biologic dressings (healable wounds only)

Treat Co-Factors
Nutrition/hydration, mobility, medications, skin care, lifestyle factors, underlying chronic/acute disease

Address Person’s Concerns
- "Comprehensive Assessment of Chronic Pain in Wounds"
- "WHO Pain Ladder with Pain Management Guidelines"
- "Cardiff Wound Impact (Quality of Life) Questionnaire"
- Concordance

Infection/Inflammation
- Assess using the "Bioburden Assessment Tool"
- Treat using the "Bacterial Burden in Chronic Wounds" chart. Consider topical antimicrobials for critically colonized wounds, and topical and systemic antimicrobials for infected wounds
- Silver sulfadiazine should be a last resort

Educate
- "My Burn Wound" pamphlet
- "The Impact of Nutrition in Wound Healing" pamphlet

Debridement
- Debride (within your scope) non-viable tissue in healable wounds only
- Do NOT debride maintenance/non-healable wounds unless you have the knowledge/skill/judgment to debride non-healable tissue for the purpose of reducing bacterial burden, drainage, and/or odor
- It is appropriate to debride blood filled blisters or serous filled blisters that are large (greater than 6mm diameter) or that compromise joint function

For more information go to: swrwoundcareprogram.ca

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