

Kee "PIN" it Clean: An Evidence Based Practice on Pin Site Care

UC San Diego Health

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Catalyst

- UC San Diego had no written guidelines or protocol on how to perform proper Pin Site Care in caring for patients with External Fixator.
- UC San Diego 5 West Trauma Stepdown unit cared for total of 21 patients that needed External Fixator from February – October 2020.
- Providers are placing "Pin Site Care" order but do not specify what cleansing agent and dressings to utilize – brings more confusion to the Nursing Staff.
- There was no specific tab to document in UCSD Electronic Medical Record for Pin Site Care Intervention.

Acquire/Appraise/Ask

PICO Question:

- Among UC San Diego 5 West Trauma Stepdown patients with External Fixators, how does performing Pin Site Care Protocol compared to current practice of no protocol, affects pin site care completion and staff competency?

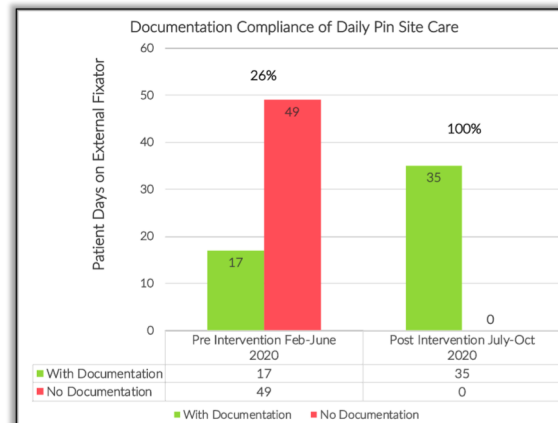
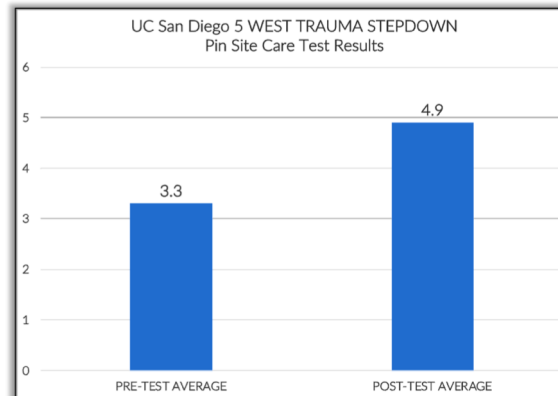
Literature Review:

- The use of half strength Hydrogen Peroxide mixed with equal amount of 0.9% NaCl is the best practice in performing Pin Site care
- Normal Saline is recommended if patient has known sensitivity to Hydrogen Peroxide.
- Pin Site Care do not require sterile technique
- Retaining crust during Pin Site Care may act as a physical barrier to bacterial contamination (Biological Dressing)

Applying/Analyze

Staff Education: July – October 2021

- Powerpoint Presentation – All Staff Unit Meeting
- Shift Huddles and Safety Rounding
- Brochure and Pamphlets
- 1:1 and Group Teaching
- 62 Registered Nurses Participated in the project
- No infection reported during the course of the project



Advancing/Adopting

- Published a Hospital-wide Nursing Guideline in UCSD Pulse Website on how to perform proper Pin Site Care.
- Added a specific Pin Site Intervention Tab to our Electronic Medical record for documentation.
- Created a Pin Site Care Order set that providers can use.

Conclusions

- Surgeons and nursing staff should adopt a uniform pin care protocol that works for their patients, which can be taught to everyone involved in patient care. This also prevents confusion and loss of confidence from the staff.
- Clear guidelines are necessary to ensure complete and proper care for Pin Sites, thus preventing any complications.

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