EWMA Educational Development Programme

Curriculum Development Project

Education Module:

Management of Traumatic Wounds

Latest revision: October 2015
ABOUT THE EWMA EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Programme is designed to assist students and healthcare professionals who work with patients with wounds and related skin conditions and wish to develop and/or increase their knowledge and skills in order to meet patient needs.

Overall, the Programme aims to:

• Provide students and healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills to equip them to perform their role in the delivery of optimal wound care.
• Provide contemporary, interdisciplinary, product/brand neutral wound management education that is endorsed by EWMA.
• Provide quality standards against which other organisations can evaluate existing wound management programmes.
• Achieve European acceptance by developing an educational framework that is in line with European Commission educational initiatives in order to disseminate best practice in wound care.

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Curriculum Development Project is at the heart of the Educational Development Programme. The aim of the Project is to develop a flexible curriculum, consisting of a number of modules.

All modules are based on a standard template but individually focused on a specific aspect of wound management. Each module is developed by a small group consisting of members of the EWMA Education Committee and/or affiliated wound care key specialists. For an updated list of the currently available modules please visit the education sub page at www.ewma.org.

ABOUT THIS MODULE

The Management of Traumatic Wounds module aims to:

• Broaden participant’s knowledge and understanding management of traumatic wounds.
• Evaluate strategies to promote effective inter-professional collaborative working for patients with traumatic wounds.
MODULE CONTENT

1. Elaborating Body

European Wound Management Association (EWMA)

2. Date of production of module

April 2004

3. Latest review date

October 2015

4. Module intended learning outcomes

This module provides opportunities for health professionals and students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

A. Intellectual Skills – Knowledge and Understanding

Participants will have knowledge of the:

1. Pathophysiology of acute wound repair, shock, bleeding and the mechanisms of injury.
3. General assessment of the patient with acute traumatic wounds including: aetiology, time since injury and circumstances, e.g. clean vs. dirty.
4. Assessment of the acute wound including: anatomical location, size, control of bleeding, inspection, palpation, examination, (neuro)vascular assessment, and neurovascular examination, range of movement.
5. Treatment of the acute wound including: cleansing, debridement, methods of closure, closure materials, use of antibiotics and tetanus prophylaxis.
6. Psychosocial impact wounding has on the individual and society.
7. Organisation of accident and emergency and other services available for the assessment and management of patients with acute traumatic injuries.
8. Medico-legal issues relating to acute traumatic injury.
9. Health economics related to traumatic wounds.

B. Practical Skills – Skills and Attributes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Appropriately assess a patient with an acute, traumatic wound.
2. Differentiate a simple acute traumatic wound from a complicated acute, traumatic wound.
3. Make effective treatment decisions, initiate further investigations and know when and where to refer to specialist services.

4. Monitor and evaluate treatment outcomes.

5. Identify the psychosocial impact that wounding has on the individual and society.

6. Evaluate the provision of accident and emergency and other services available for the assessment and management of patients with acute, traumatic injuries.

5. Teaching/learning methods & strategies

Acquisition of 4.A & 4.B (see above) is through a combination of lectures, small group workshops and learning in practice throughout the module. There is also the possibility of using e-learning in combination with traditional learning methods. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught and to broaden individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

6. Assessment methods

Assessment methods will need to vary for each professional group. Understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways i.e. open discussion, formal written exercises, case studies, practice work-books. Throughout, the learner is expected to consolidate the development of practical skills / management skills in the clinical setting.

7. Unit content

A. Overview / epidemiology

Incidence and prevalence data of aetiology of the wound, like for example cuts, abrasions, lacerations, bites, stab wounds, degloving injuries, crush injuries, non-accidental injuries, gunshot wounds,

National/International guidelines and targets

Health needs assessment

Health economic aspects associated with traumatic wounds

B. Anatomy

The structure and function of the:

Skin

Muscular/skeletal system/internal organs

Neurological system

Vascular (micro-macro) system
C. Pathophysiology
The mechanisms of injury, time relations and physiological response to shock
Bleeding control, the physiology of acute wound healing, haemostasis

D. Principles of patient care
Preliminary injury assessment – physical (time, force of injury), psychological, social,
Identification of patient centred management objectives
Emergency interventions
Care planning and triage
Pain management
Universal precautions
Use of evidence based practice/clinical guidelines
Evaluation of outcomes
Documentation
Referral criteria
Interdisciplinary team working
Medico-legal/professional issues

E. Assessment
Initial patient assessment process (basic life support)
Local acute wound assessment process – time / type / force/ extent of injury

F. Traumatic wound management
Continuing assessment of patient and wound and assessment of the injured part of the body
Management strategies for acute traumatic wounds including the use of wound management products and adjunct therapies
Assessment of wound bed by using a systematic framework for wound analysis, e.g. TIME (depths, structures involved, contact to body cavities), surrounding skin
Pain management to ensure effective assessment and evaluation of outcomes including the use of analgesia and acute pain services
Principles of wound cleansing
Selection of cleansing agents
Debridement and wound bed preparation including surgical debridement, dressings promoting autolytic debridement
Method of wound closure (primary, delayed)
Wound closure materials
Dressing selection including product availability relative to local circumstances and different healthcare settings
Advanced wound care products/techniques/devices
Care of the periwound tissue
The use of guidelines and evidence-based practice to treat traumatic wounds

G. Management of infection
The risk of infection in traumatic wounds and strategies for prevention.
Assessment/presentation – systemic and local clinical signs/symptoms, sub-clinical infection
Superficial infections, cellulitis, deep infection and sepsis
Surgical drainage
Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)
Methods of identifying infecting agents - culture and swab techniques, biopsy
Radiological and other investigations – Isotope scans, Magnetic Resonance Scans
Use of topical antiseptics - indications, type and duration of treatment
Adjunct therapies: their relevance and practical application

H. Systemic and local pharmacological management
Tetanus prophylaxis
Use of analgesia and anaesthetic agents
Use of steroids
Use of antibiotics
Use of thrombolytic therapy
Use of oxygen therapy (hyperbaric and other oxygen therapies)
Maintenance of normovolemia (fluid replacement)

I. Rehabilitation services
Acute and remote trauma team management
Inter-disciplinary, multi-professional approach to emergency services
Patient follow-up services

J. Psychosocial aspects of care
Impact acute wounds on individual & society
Factors affecting compliance with treatment
Munchausen syndrome, self harm or other type of harming

Effective patient education strategies e.g. prevention, alcohol, substance abuse

8. Unit specific learning resources


European Resuscitation Council Guidelines for Resuscitation (2015) Section 2: Adult basic life support and automated external defibrillation


NICE Guideline (2016) Major trauma: assessment and management of airway, breathing and ventilation, circulation, haemorrhage and temperature control