

MANAGING BURN WOUNDS IN THE UK

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Aim

Burn wound management practices in the UK have never previously been recorded. As part of the National Burn Care Review (NBCR) it was decided to identify current wound management practices in the 32 UK Burns Units

Method

A questionnaire was sent out to all 32 burn units, this was followed up by a visit to go through the questionnaire and gain additional evidence. Here the researcher was able to explore rationales for treatment suggestions. Issues such as bathing, wound cleansing, lotions and potions, skin substitutes and dressing choices were addressed.

Results

There was very little consensus about wound care and documentation of wound management was poor, despite this being one of the key areas of patient management. Vaseline gauze type products remain the mainstay of burns management in the UK

Conclusion

This review gave rise to a national review document (NBCR) and will enable burn care professionals a starting point for research and development of consensus documents in the management of the burn wound. Sharing of practices and development of Regional Burn Interest Groups (BIG) has meant that regions can start to look at developing pathways of care around networks which ensure that patients receive the same standard of care throughout their patient journey.