

METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION AS A RESULT OF TREATMENT WITH HIGH PRESSURE IRRIGATION

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Background: High Pressure Irrigation (HPI) is a common treatment to facilitate the wound healing process by removing bacteria and debris.

The purpose of this study is to determine the degree of bacterial contamination around the wound, when it is treated with HPI.

Methods: In this trial HPI was tested on 24 patients with one wound each.

The patients were divided in 3 groups with 8 patients in each. One group was treated with HPI using a big shield, another group with a small shield and a third group without shield. The contamination around the wound was measured at a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ m and 1m in a circle, with 4 measurements in each circle.

The equipment was set to deliver a pressure at 8 psi. The distance from the nozzle to the wound was about 2 cm.

Conclusion: Only the big shield gives acceptable level of protection against bacterial contamination around the wound at a distance of both $\frac{1}{2}$ m and 1m. This tested HPI should not be used without shield protection.