

**AUTOLOGOUS SKIN GRAFTING AND HYALURONATE-IODINE COMPLEX IN TREATMENT OF CHRONIC WOUNDS – AN OBSERVATION STUDY**

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**Aim:** Autologous skin transplantation is a method used for treatment of non-healing crural ulcers. Proper preparation of wound bed is an indispensable part of the treatment. The aim of our observation study was to investigate the effect of hyaluronate-iodine-complex (HI-complex) before transplantation on the healing of the ulcers.

**Methods:** 29 chronic non-healing crural ulcers (lasting 8-144 months) were prepared for transplantation in 19 hospitalized patients in the years 2007-2008. Ulcers were of venous or mixed venous and ischemic etiology. Wound bed was prepared by debridement (also surgical necrectomy) and local treatment with HI-complex in all cases. In 3 indicated cases, angioplastic procedure was performed. The wound area ranged from 12 to 750 cm<sup>2</sup>. After this preparation period, the wound was covered by meshed dermoepidermal skin graft during short surgery.

**Results:** Complete healing was apparent in 51.7% (15 cases). In other 37.9% (11 cases), we achieved reduction more than 90% of the ulcer area. All ulcers reduced their size. These results were reached within 2 months after grafting.

**Conclusions:** The use of autologous skin transplantation after preparation with HI-complex seems to be a promising method for treatment of chronic non-healing wounds. Our results show complete wound healing in 51.7% and significant reduction of ulcer area in the vast majority of cases. HI-complex also shows good results in treatment of residual lesions after transplantation. Further research is needed, we are working on a randomized study to prove this effect.

The work was supported by research grant MSM0021620820.