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EFFICACY EVALUATION OF ANTI-DECUBITUS SYSTEM IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

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Object: Efficacy evaluation of a stretcher, anti-decubit mattress for reduction of pressure ulcers.

Method: Patients, over 65 years old, have been involved in the project, while at the emergency dept. The choice between the anti-decubitus or traditional mattress, has been effected with random criteria, using a previously prepared schedule system.

As soon as the patient arrived in emergency dept, he was schedule and monitorized till his dismissal and eventual pressure ulcers insurgence duly recorded.

The practical advantages of the anti-decubitus mattress have been tested by medical staff of emergency dept, as well as a convenient evaluation about it has been asked to the patients by a test. The EPUAP classification for pressure ulcers has been used for the evaluation of insurgence. 191 patients have been checked, 90 of them making use the experimental mattress and the remaining 101 using the traditional ones.

Results: We got a relevant ($p < 0,005$) difference between the two mentioned above groups, being the percentage of pressure ulcers respectively of 0% for the new tested mattress and 19% for the traditional ones.

Conclusions: The efficacy of the experimental mattress is to be seen in the reduction of the damages caused by a prolonged immobility in the patients presenting new ulcers.

We got no negative comments, but fully positive.

Further studies are necessary to confirm the above results on larger proportion basis.