

P 33

BI-LAYERED CELL THERAPY IS IMPROVING THE SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF MITTEN DEFORMITIES IN A PATIENT WITH RECESSIVE DYSTROPHIC EPIDERMOLYSIS BULLOSA

Jan Izakovic^{1,2}, Reinhold Roesslein^{1,2}.

¹Private practice (Basel, Switzerland)

²University Children's Hospital (Basel, Switzerland)

Pseudosyndactyly, contractures and function loss due to cocooning of the hands are typical mutilating features of recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RD-EB).

We report on a 27-year-old female patient suffering from this entity who previously underwent mitten release surgery on both hands in 2004. At that time, the resulting wounds were treated with standard anti-infective topicals and dressings. The protracted healing phase was marked by significant pain and bleeding.

Recently, surgery of the left hand had to be reperformed because of the reoccurrence of pseudosyndactyly and relevant function loss of the fingers. The procedure differed from the previous interventions by the use of a bi-layered tissue-engineered cell therapy¹ for immediate coverage of the denuded areas. This measure resulted in a reduction of time for re-epithelialization by more than two weeks and in diminished pain and bleeding as compared to the previous surgery.

For individuals with this kind of heavy constraints due to RD-EB the restoration of the functional integrity is paramount. Therefore, the aim of successful surgery is fast achievement of wound healing and skin stability, impairment of pain and bleeding and facilitation of physiotherapy. As reported previously and as currently confirmed by our own experience, tissue-engineered products can significantly contribute to achieve these goals.



¹Apligraf®