

Pressure Ulcers: Literature Review

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A literature review is a compilation of already established research that revisits specific topics. The purpose of a literature review is to compare the strengths and weaknesses of the compilation of relevant studies on a topic (Houser, 2018). Over 60,000 people die every year from pressure ulcers (PUs). Those who do not die from PUs pay anywhere from \$20,900 to \$151,700 to treat each ulcer (Worldwide pressure injury prevention day, n.d.). A literature review of evidence-based practice preventative nursing interventions will help identify the strengths and weaknesses of each intervention in preventing pressure ulcers.

Implementing a new approach to pressure ulcer prevention

Sub-epidermal moisture scanners are wireless, non-invasive devices that identify the increased risk of pressure ulcers by measuring the difference in moisture in the innermost part of the epidermis. Implementing SEM scanners along with other preventative pressure ulcer standards of care such as education, reassessments, frequent skin assessments, and water-flow risk assessments reduced community pressure ulcer incidence by 26.7% (Ore & Carver, 2020).

Key Points

Using SEM scanners in conjunction with standard pressure ulcer prevention protocols reduced the incidence rate due to the scanners measuring fluid differences in the sub-epidermal layer (Ore & Carver, 2020). The findings show that using the SEM scanners in conjunction with standards of care to prevent pressure ulcers (PUs) had the most excellent preventative effect on stage two sacral PUs (Ore & Carver, 2020).

Assumptions

Ore and Carver (2020) assume that the standard of care and prevention protocols are still highly effective due to pairing these standards of care with SEM scanners for prevention studies of pressure ulcers. The cost of treatment of pressure ulcers dramatically outweighs the cost of preventative measures, and preventing pressure ulcers increases the well-being of patients physically and financially (Ore & Carver, 2020).

Deficit/Conclusion

SEM scanners help to prevent community-based pressure ulcers in patients in palliative care significantly. The results of the study have a limit due to a relatively small sample and size. The sample consisted of palliative care patients in two Mersey Care Foundation Trust (MCFT) facilities (Ore & Carver, 2020). The author has a good line of reasoning. The SEM scanners can detect moisture changes, and moisture changes constitute a significant risk factor for pressure ulcers. The article implies that SEM scanners can reduce incidences of sacral pressure ulcers in palliative care patients (Ore & Carver, 2020). More research with different and larger sample sizes can significantly increase the nursing acceptance of this preventative strategy. If nursing fails to accept this line of reasoning, the implication would be a higher incidence of pressure ulcers in palliative care patients.

References

Houser, J. (2018). *Nursing research: Reading, using, and creating evidence* (4th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Ore, N., & Carver, T. (2020). Implementing a new approach to pressure ulcer prevention. *JCN*, 34(4), 52–57.

Worldwide pressure injury prevention day is Nov. 19, 2020. (n.d.). *Washington State Hospital Association*. Retrieved June 10, 2021 from <https://www.wsha.org/articles/worldwide-pressure-injury-prevention-day-is-nov-19-2020/>.