

Hyaluronic acid gel improves wound healing in diabetic patients after digit amputations

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PURPOSE

Foot ulceration and amputation are common, multi-factorial and costly complications in patients with diabetes [1,2]. Upwards of 85% of amputations are preceded by foot ulcers [3], and those patients with a lower extremity amputation have a diminished quality of life [4]. The healing of digit amputations is not often predictable and its complications are an important cause of morbidity and mortality in patients with diabetes [5]. In recent years, major advances in wound treatment have developed, however, a high prevalence of non-healing wounds still persists. Therefore, it is vital to treat these wounds with advanced wound dressings that can accelerate wound healing and decrease comorbidities.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the time to heal in diabetic patients with digit amputations treated with a sodium hyaluronate (2.5%) wound gel [6] from January 1st to July 31st, 2015.

METHODS

After digit amputations, patients received the hyaluronic acid gel treatment daily until incision line was healed. Every week, photographs of incision lines were taken. Time to heal for surgical incisions was defined as the time it took for the sutures to be removed.



RESULTS

Our results demonstrated that the time to heal in those patients receiving hyaluronic acid gel after performing digit amputations was predominantly within 2 weeks. This is in contrast to a typical 4 week healing time that we observed prior to using HA gel. In addition, our complication rate was correspondingly low as we were not dealing with incision line dehiscence or infection.

CONCLUSIONS

The results showed that HA gel may improve the time to heal of the incision lines compared to those treated with standard of care and reduces complication rates by introducing this product as a postoperative treatment protocol.

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