

A Cross Sectional Study On Clinical Evaluation Of Surgical Dressing Among Interns In A Tertiary Care Centre

Dr.R.Ramprasath *¹ Dr. Rejith Pawan Sai² Dr.Vaseekaran.P³ Dr.M . Bhaskar ⁴

¹Associate Professor Department Of General Surgery- First Author

² Post Graduate, Department Of General Surgery

³Dr.P.Sharon , Dr.B.Swetha , Dr.G.Swetha , Dr.R.Ranil Ramesh , Dr Lokesh S ,Dr. Abdul Hameed Arsath..A, Intern
Department Of General Surgery

⁴, Professor , Department Of General Surgery , Karpaga Vinayaga Institute Of Medical Sciences And Research Centre

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND - Surgical dressing is one of the most important factor for managing a patient effectively during post operative period to prevent surgical site infection. In a medical college interns play as a first line physician for the management of a patient post operatively and managing the surgical site infection . However medical curriculum lack an insight on the selection, management and training on dressing for the surgery patients . It is often left unnoticed during an intern training period.

objective

cross sectional study aim on the assessment of all the interns posted or completed their rotational crmi posting in department of general surgery in karpaga vinayaga institute of medical sciences and research centre

Methods

A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted among interns for three months from march 2026 to may 2026 . This study was conducted among interns completed rotational posting in department of general surgery in karpaga vinayaga institute of medical sciences and research centre. Data was collected by using validated questionnaire on dressing from traditional methods of dressing to recent advances on dressing .Collected data was analyzed and interpreted .

RESULT

The findings obtained in our study concludes that 88.7% interns participated in this study are shown a satisfactory knowledge on traditional dressing using gauze, roller bandages . Only 44% knows about recent trends in surgical dressing like usage of biological foam , negative pressure wound therapy. There is knowledge lag in aseptic precaution protocol during surgery patient dressing.

CONCLUSION.

This study conclude that there is a systematic gap in knowledge and practical approach on the way of dressing among interns completing their postings. There is clear lag on theoretical knowledge and attitude towards dressing . This can be aligned by conducting various objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) , simulated work shop on dressing and updated institutional protocol on the dressing training for the interns..

KEYWORDS - interns , surgical dressing , objective structured clinical examination

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INTRODUCTION

In modern surgical practice the most effective method in managing a patient is by prevention surgical site infection by providing the appropriate dressing , Thereby reducing the significant morbidity, infection rate and duration of the hospital stay . vitality of dressing aids in improving the wound healing by reducing moisture over the surgical site and prevents the reduction in microorganism contamination over the wound. It also aims in providing chemical and physical barrier against micro organism effectively. Usually in high volume like medical college responsibility of management of surgical dressing done by interns . Hence management of the dressing should be adequately done with the aim of the prevention of infection. This study aims on evaluating the awareness of dressing methods and aseptic techniques among interns in a tertiary care centre.

*Author for Correspondence: Dr.R.Ramprasath

STUDY DESIGN

A cross sectional study conduction for the duration of three months form the period of march 2026 to end of may 2026 among the interns completed the rotational postings in department of general surgery in karpaga vinayaga institute of medical sciences and research centre.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

Interns who are undergoing compulsory rotational postings in the karpaga vinayaga medical college.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

All the undergraduate students except interns were excluded from this study.

SURVERY METHOD

This survey was conduction with the passive learning approach based on mcq's to assess the interns knowledge about the dressing and its role in surgery

patients. Survey was done with the help of google form circulated among interns with maintaining the anonymity to reduce the bias and also reducing the Hawthorne effect. This study conducted purely to evaluate the knowledge on surgical dressing rather than active competitive approach.

Knowledge about surgical dressing was done providing 10 mcqs on the basics of surgical dressing and following of aseptic precautions among the interns. Multiple choice questions correctly answered more than seven numbers considered as adequate knowledge on the surgical dressing and less than seven answered correctly by an intern considered as inadequate knowledge on surgical dressing.

Questionnaire based socio-demographic details including the participants age, gender and duration of the rotational postings completed in department of general surgery.

Questionnaire also based on the basic dressing and advances in surgery dressings like negative pressure wound therapy, Biological dressing also questionnaire based on the aseptic precaution while doing dressing.

RESULTS

A total 86 interns participated in this study on assessing the dressing knowledge in postoperative patients in department of general surgery. Among total 86 interns 56 female and 30 males gender. mean age group is 24±1 years in age. Every participants conducted rotational postings in department of general surgery. Results after through assessment proves that there is a knowledge gap between traditional dressing and modern methods of dressing most intern (88%) identify the questionnaire response on traditional dressing. only a few numbers (44%) knows about modern technique on dressing. Furthermore 52% interns knows about the aseptic precautions and protocol followed in surgical ward while perform a surgical dressing. This study suggests interns knowledge on recent advances in dressing to be shown and discussed both theoretically and practical approach for the application of the dressing.

DISCUSSION

Clinical evaluation on knowledge of surgical dressing management among medical interns represents a vital, yet frequently left unnoticed in aspect of modern inpatient postoperative period of management. Interns are considered primary evaluator of daily bedside wound care in tertiary care teaching hospitals, interns function primarily in management of post-operative wound healing and surgical site infection (SSI) prevention, Indirectly reducing patients hospital stay and expenditure on medical management.

However, a closer look at their performance data reveals a significant structural gap. While early-career physicians (Interns) are highly skilled in traditional, standard dressing techniques, their knowledge drops off sharply when they have to manage advanced dressing techniques or deal with the complex difficult wounds. This discussion explores the educational, behavioral, and operational implications of these findings, outlining the systemic changes needed to bridge the

divide between medical training and implementation of training in practice for the management of surgical dressing.

However this lag in the recent advances in management of wound care among intern with only knowledge on the traditional dressing methods for the management of dressing leaving the future generation lags on the management of recent advances on dressing.

A second factors noticed in our study is that the intern profoundly having more theoretical knowledge about aseptic precaution measures but lags in real time management of a patient in surgical dressing leaving a carelessness which causes profound change in the patient health care management which may leads to increase in morbidity and sometime causes mortality assurgency during the dressing. This increases patients hospital stay may cause increase of hospital expenditure. This findings enabling us to concentrate on the safety measures to followed by interns while performing dressing to ensure safety of the patient as well as the trainee in the prevention of infection exposure. This should be implemented with rigorous training for following aseptic precautions.

ACTIONS TO BE DONE

- This study shown us there is a clear lag in the management of surgical dressing protocol for the surgical patient care management

It can be rectified by implementation of focused curriculum plan on the dressing also results in the improved patient care and improved safety of the interns also.

This can be done by providing objective competency based structural clinical examinations (OSCE) for assessing the wound status and examining the viability of the tissue, clinical selection of dressing materials, clinical selection on the type of the dressing to be done and strict obedience of aseptic precaution protocol while performing dressing.

Educational institutions should provide clear guidelines on the management of dressing and types of dressing to be done for the patient. This standardization enables interns to perform and learn more about the importance of surgical dressing and its vitality in the management of patient with surgical wound promotes a early treatment with exceptional care for the patient provides well satisfied outcome for the patient as well as intern during surgical rotational postings

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