Preface

Lacerations, burns, and other wounds are a common reason for patients to present to the Urgent Care. The Center for Disease Control National Center for Health Statistics reports over 3.1 million visits to health care professionals for accidental cutting or piercing injuries in 2012, over 480,000 visits for burns, and over 5.3 million visits for diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissues (i.e. cellulitis and/or abscess). Many of these patients present to an Urgent Care or Acute Care Center with a variety of acute and chronic wounds. Expedient assessment and treatment is often expected by the patient and leaves little time for the providers to educate themselves on the nuances of surgical wound care.

It is often hard to establish best practice standards in the case of acute and chronic wounds. Lacerations occur in a variety of locations on the body and each wound requires a specialized evaluation and treatment approach. A "one-size fits all" approach to laceration repair can result in suboptimal wound healing and poor patient outcomes. In addition, the treatment of chronic wounds due to illness or neglect on the part of the patient or caregiver can involve a significant level of training and expertise. Due to the difficulty encountered in staying up to date with evidence-based medicine, many providers will fall back on dogma and prior training without realizing that these practices have been shown to lack benefit or may even be harmful to patients.

Complications resulting from inadequate management of wounds early in the course of treatment can include scarring, infection, dehiscence, and/or loss of function of an affected limb. For this reason, many providers may shy away from more complex wounds and instead refer patients to the local Emergency Department, or they may call for the services of a specialist.

The goal of this book is to establish a concise reference to rapidly assist each provider in wound management and increase the provider's overall confidence and competence, which will lead to better patient outcomes.

Folsom, CA, USA — Brittany Busse

http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-27426-3

Wound Management in Urgent Care

Busse, B.

2016, IX, 88 p. 27 illus., 5 illus. in color., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-27426-3