

Title: The Effects of Using the Program for Wound Care of Diabetic Patients with Neuropathic Foot Ulcers

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Background: Diabetic foot ulcers are about 15% of complications found in diabetic patients with deformed foot problems. It is also a major problem that causes the lower extremity amputation. An approximately 50% of diabetic foot ulcers are caused by degenerative neuropathy, which is a major cause. It is as well found difficult to heal this type of wound if the wound care is not properly performed. It is likely that the wound will recur more often than other types of wounds.

Methods: The objectives of this study were to analyze the effects of using program of wound care for diabetic patients with neuropathic foot ulcers on time to wound healing, 2-month readmission rate, and to compare its costs to the conventional wound management. The samples were diabetic patients with neuropathic foot ulcers stage 1 and 2 (Wagner, 1981), who received services at the Wound Care Clinic, Napparat Rajathanee Hospital. The selection of sample followed the inclusion criteria. The instruments used in this study included 1) the program of wound care for diabetic patients with neuropathic foot ulcers developed by the researchers, 2) the outpatient documentation card, 3) the patients' general information form, 4) the wound record form, and 5) the brochure for diabetic foot ulcers. The researchers used descriptive statistics to analyze data.

Results: The average of time to wound healing was 35 days that shorter than the standard (12 to 20 weeks). There were 20 percent of 2-month readmission that lesser than the standard (60 percent). The cost of wound care with special products required 1-2 times in a week was cheaper than that of daily wound care for 7,359 Baht.

Conclusion: The findings suggested that health care services should implement this program in the clinical setting to enhance the quality of care for patients with diabetic foot ulcer.

References

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