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Impact of chronic wounds on the health-related quality of Omani patients

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Abstract

Background: Chronic wounds, defined as wounds which do not heal in a logical set of stages, impact patients' quality of life by disrupting their self-esteem, sleep, social interaction, work capacity, and psychological well-being. Chronic wounds are a prevalent problem in Oman due to the high number of patients with diabetes, sickle cell disease, road traffic accidents and decubitus ulcer. Chronic wound has enormous impact on the individual in affecting their quality of life and at societal level as high health care expenditure (Olsson, et al., 2019).

Objective: Therefore, it is of paramount importance to explore the Health-Related Quality of Life of these patients with chronic wounds.

Method: A cross-sectional, quantitative descriptive study design to elicit the information from the perspectives of patients admitted with chronic wounds in the 3 tertiary care hospitals of Muscat city, Oman was conducted using cardiff wound impact questionnaire between June and December 2021. Patients were included if they were 18 years of age and above and suffering with a chronic wound of more than four week duration.

Results: Based on the findings, majority of them (29.1%) had diabetic ulcers, followed by unhealing surgical wounds (22.2%). Most of them (47.3%) had dressing alone as the treatment. The mean and SD of the total HRQOL was 57.06 ± 14.271 . The highest mean scores were reported for wellbeing domain ($M=63.24 \pm 18.092$), followed by social domain ($M=59.54 \pm 19.025$), with lower scores in physical symptoms and daily life domain ($M=59.54 \pm 19.025$). The cut off scores of the HRQOL of the participants was kept at the median 58.78. The majority (53.8%) of the participants with chronic wound had poor HRQOL.

Conclusion: Our study findings emphasize the importance of assessing the HRQOL of the patients suffering from chronic wounds. Psychological support along with medical and surgical management is very important to improve the health status and overall quality of life in various domains.

Keywords: HRQOL, chronic wounds, impact

Biography

Dr. Jansirani Natarajan is a nurse educator working in the Sultan Qaboos University at various levels. She has a great passion for teaching and research. Has been involved in academic reasech like simulation, incivility and clinical research like HRQOL of patients with chronic diseases. She has published many articles in peer-reviewed scopus indexed journals as well as has done oral presentations in the international conferences.