

IV Extravasation Injuries 101

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Pediatric Wound Care & Laser Specialists

RENE AMAYA, MD, FAAP, CWSP

Objectives

- Definitions
- Description
- Prognostic Factors
- Documentation
- Importance of Early Recognition and Documentation
- Management
 - Initial Steps
 - Debridement
 - Granulation



Definitions

- **Infiltration** is the inadvertent leakage of vesicant solution from its intended vascular pathway (vein) into the surrounding tissue
- **Extravasation** is the inadvertent leakage of vesicant solution from its intended vascular pathway (vein) into the surrounding tissue resulting in tissue necrosis and inflammation
- A **vesicant** refers to any medicine or fluid with the potential to cause blisters, severe tissue damage (skin/tendons/muscle) or necrosis if it leaks from the intended venous pathway

Common Vesicants

- Antibiotics: Vancomycin, Gentamicin, Penicillin, Cephalosporins
- Cardiac Meds: Dopamine, Dobutamine, Epinephrine
- Electrolyte solutions: Sodium bicarb, Calcium gluconate
- TPN
- Other: radiographic contrast material

Signs and Symptoms – Extravasation

- Color – Erythema, Pallor, Hyperpigmentation
- Edema
- Blistering
- Blanching
- Delayed capillary refill
- Skin cool to touch
- Pain with palpation
- Decreased peripheral pulses.
- leakage of fluid at the insertion site
- inability to obtain blood return (not all)
- change in quality and flow of the infusion injection

Common initial findings of an IV extravasation



- How bad does this look to you?





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3 Prognostic Factors for IV Extravasation Injuries



Location

Extravasation injuries which cross over a joint increases the complications





A

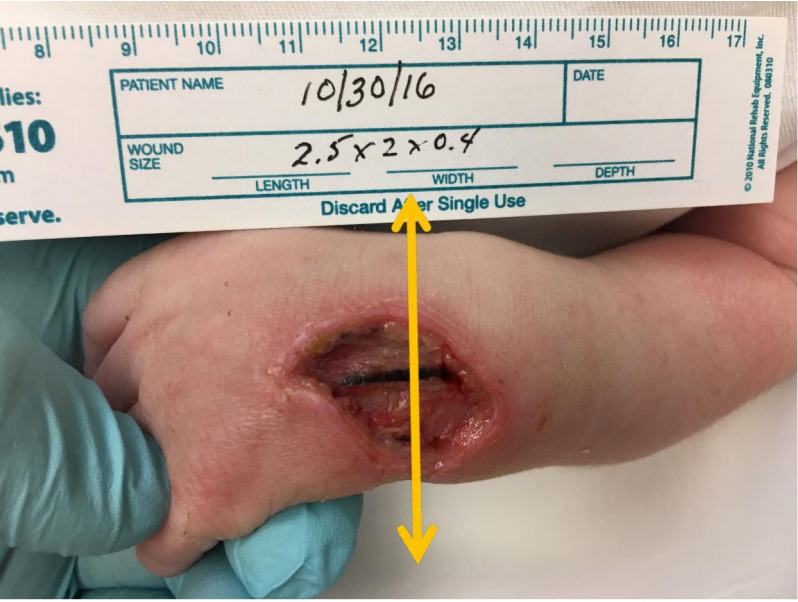


B



C

Which of the above has the worst prognosis based on location



A



B



C

Which of the above has the worst prognosis based on location?

3 Prognostic Factors for IV Extravasation Injuries



The color of the
stages of the
represents the
the tissue
genera
extravasatio
will present
black or red

Which color
worst pro



A



B



C

Which color suggests deepest tissue injury



A



B



C

Which color suggests deepest tissue injury

Anticipated Degree of Injury

Red Wound Bed – Limited to the skin and



Anticipated Degree of Injury

Black Wound Bed – Extends beyond skin to muscle and subcutaneous tissue



Anticipated Degree of Injury

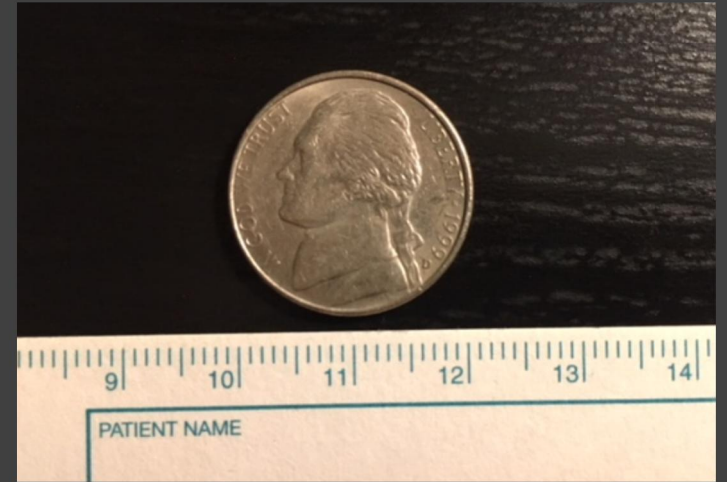
White Wound Bed – Extends beyond muscle to bone and tendon



3 Prognostic Factors for IV Extravasation Injuries



Size



>2cm will likely require aggressive intervention
Slower healing and increased risk for complications

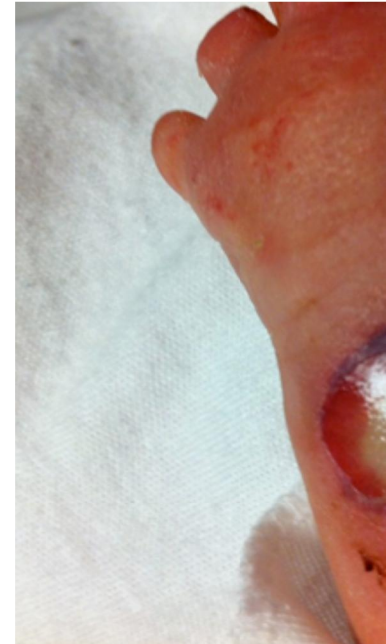




1



2



3

Based on the above discussion, which wound has the highest risk for complications?



Small size, Black color (musculature), not on flexu
Good Prognosis with proper care



Large size, Red/black, over the ankle joint
Worst prognosis. Will require close monitoring
Risk for joint infection, contracture.



Large size, White (extend beyond musculature), not on
Good prognosis with proper care.
Scarring is the most serious complication



Scalp Injuries – Unique Challenge



Location has great
for complications

If high on the scalp
extension into an
fontanelle.

If too low on the
scalp/forehead, h
permanent aesth
outcome.

Nursing Documentation of the Injury

- Time/Date the injury was identified
- What was infusing at the time of the injury?
- Location of the catheter
- Gauge and length of catheter
- Wound description of initial findings
- Management
- Notification of doctor/NNP, including time, information discussed and advice received
- Photographs per unit policy
- Notification of parents



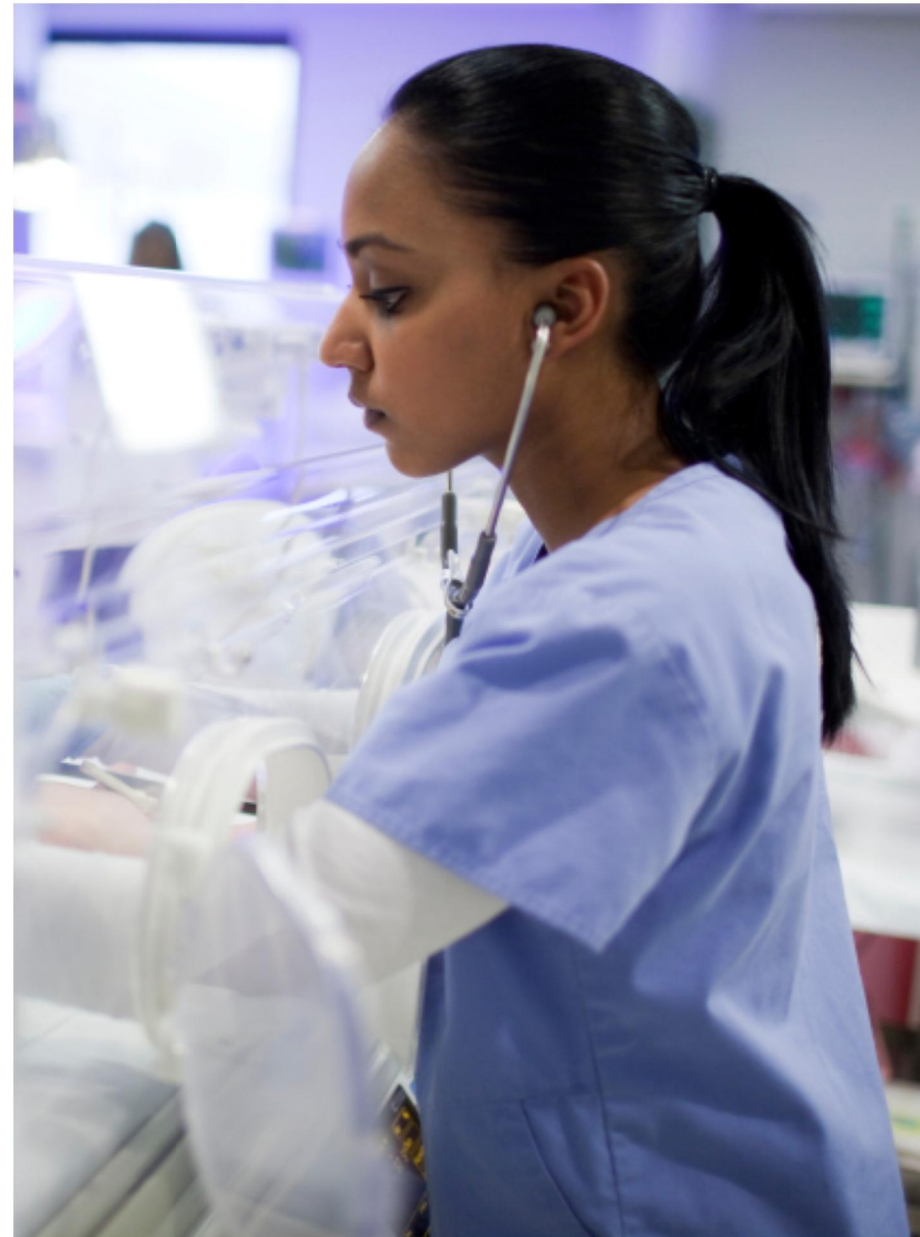


Avoiding the Complication Hourly Assessment

- Assess past the point of insertion to point where the catheter ends in the
- Ensure that dressing allows for visualization of the IV catheter
- Minimize the dressings and choose dressings that allow for visualization
- When in doubt > call for help > d/c cat

Documentation requirements for an hour assessment

Management



Management



Stages of IV Extravasation Management

“When Will She Be

- Debridement*: 7
- Granulation:
 - Wound Vac: 7
 - Epithelialization: 7-14 days
- Most wounds are within 1 month

* Dependent of size



Normal Phases of IV Injury

Management of an extravasation- First steps

- Early intervention and identification of signs and symptoms of infiltration and extravasation is crucial, in order to prevent serious adverse outcomes
- **This is a medical emergency any time day or night.**
- Goal is to reduce additional trauma and prevent further extravasation from occurring.
- Documentation will be an important aspect for legal purposes.
- Contact attending physician and wound care for consultation.



Management – First Steps

- Immediately stop the infusion/injection
- Disconnect IV tubing or syringe containing the drug, but retain it to document amount of drug administered
- Leave the cannula/port needle in place temporarily
- Aspirate as much of the residual drug as possible
- Under no circumstances should the device be flushed.
- Gently clean the IV site of all fluids and blood once the catheter is removed



Management – First St

- Hyaluronidase “Wydase”
 - Personal experience over the years has no benefit in the neonatal patient.
 - Outcomes are equivocal and in some cases by this injection.
 - I do not recommend its use in the neonatal patient.
- The affected limb should be elevated.
- Application of a cool or warm compress to the site has previously been recommended, dependent upon the type of infusion/vascular access and amount extravasated within the wrist.

Management of extravasation – First Steps

- Application of Medical Grade Honey dressings in my personal experience has multiple benefits and excellent outcomes. This should be performed as soon as the injury is identified.
- Ideally both MGH gel and calcium alginate dressing should be applied.
- MGH secured with foam dressing.



Debridement

- The role of debridement is to remove nonviable tissue to allow for new healthy tissue to grow within the space.
- The act of debriding a wound bed is reserved for the physician, nurse practitioner or certified wound specialist
- For purposes of IV extravasation injuries, the forms of debridement are limited to autolytic, mechanical and sharp debridement.

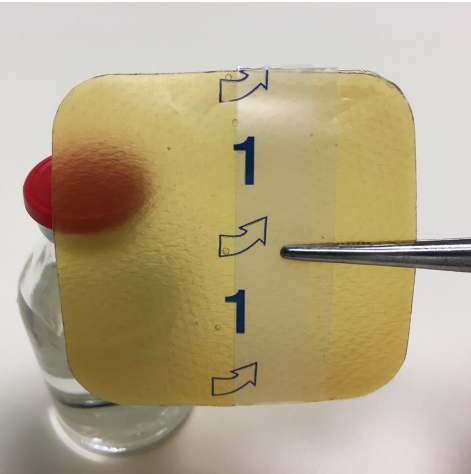




Calcium Alginate



Gel

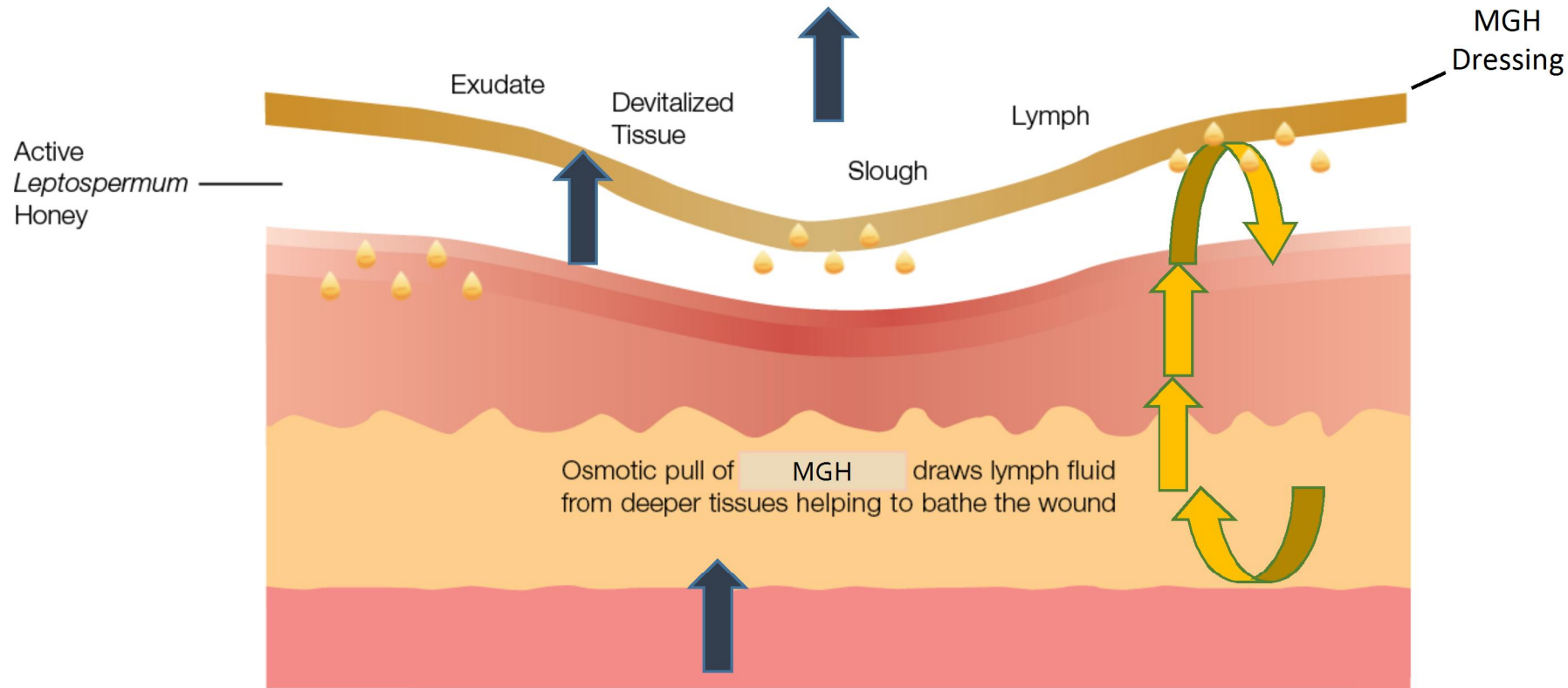


Debridement - Medical Grade Ho

Debridement - Medical Grade Honey

- Due to its their sugar content, MGH d
act as hypertonic dressings
- Facilitates movement of fluid from an
higher concentration to an area of low
concentration (osmotic activity) thus
promoting debridement
- Osmotic effect promotes an outflow of
fluid
- Provides an optimally moist environm
- The low pH of MGH helps to lower the
within the wound environment which
shown to have wound healing benefit
- Control of infection and inflammation

Osmotic Effect of Medical Grade Honey Facilitating Autolytic Debridement

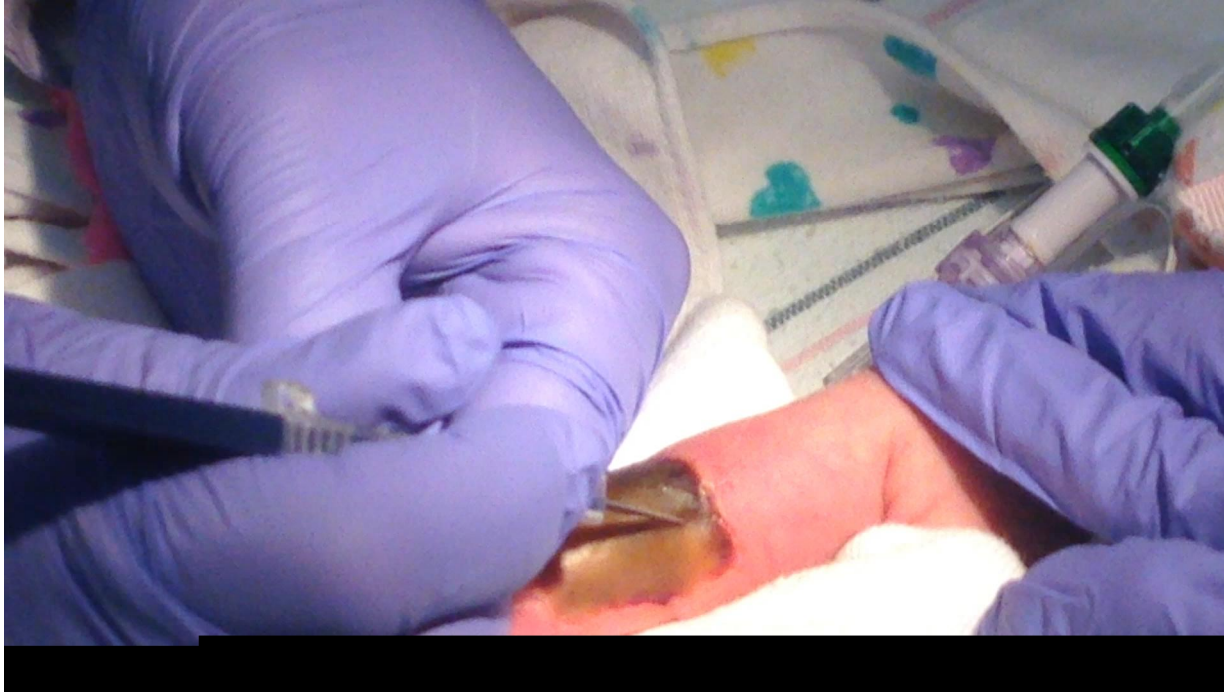




Debridement – Mechanical/Monofilament pa



Debridement - Crosshatching



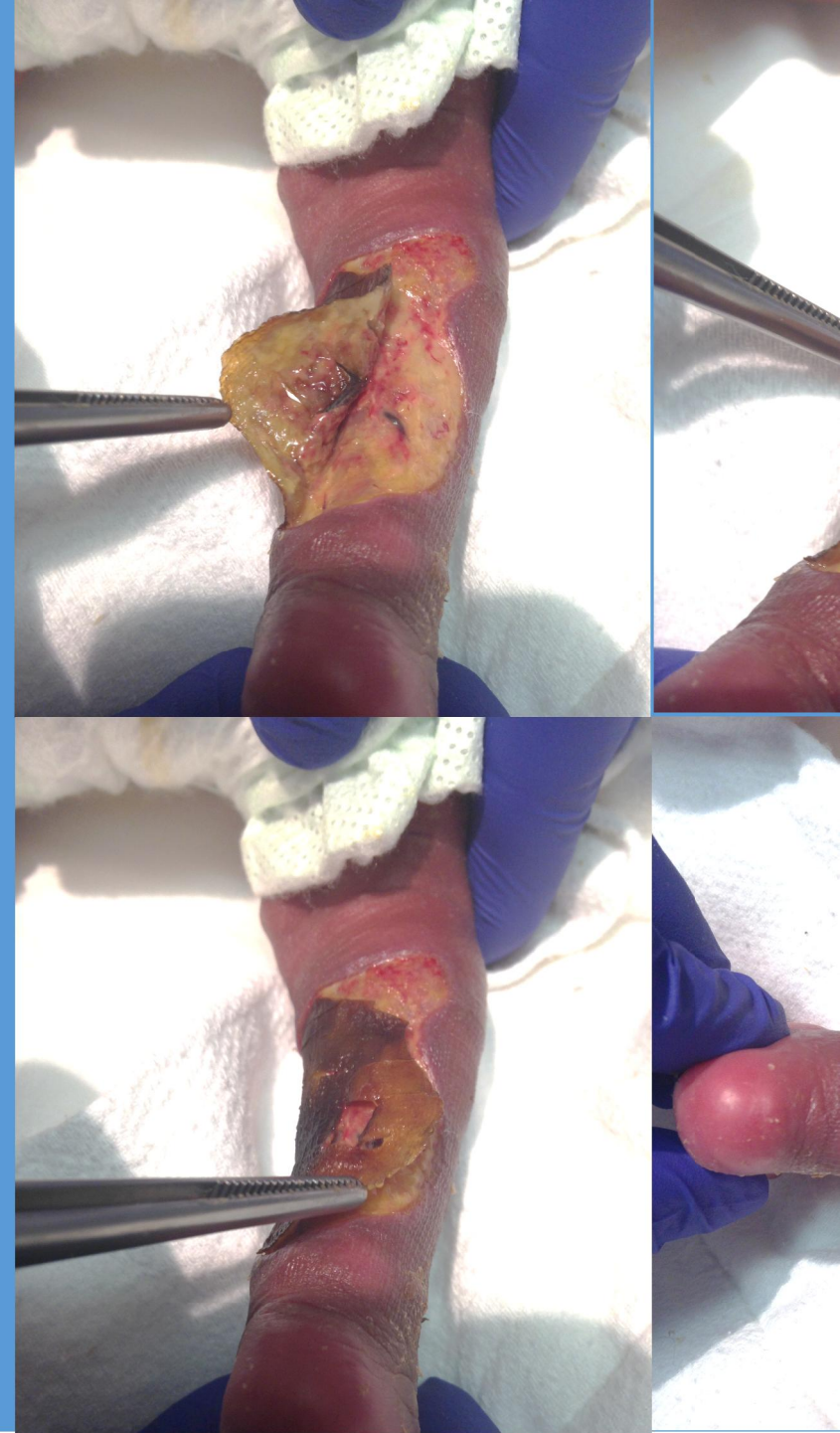
- Crosshatching optimizes penetration of MGH into wound beds.
- The procedure usually takes place on day 5-6 after debridement is initiated.
- The technique is typically pain-free since the tissue is already dead.
- Bleeding rarely occurs during the procedure.
- Nurse assistance is crucial to ensure a safe procedure.

Debridement - Crosshatching



Debridement – Sharp

- Sharp debridement is the final stage of removing non viable eschar from an IV extravasation injury.
- After preparing wound bed using mechanical debridement, MGH and crosshatching, the final loose eschar is gently removed from the wound bed.



Debridement - Sharp

After eschar has softened, sharp debridement of the necrotic tissue is important

Thereafter, the eschar is covered with a dressing of ALH



Crosshatching of the wound

Additional 48-72 hours

Management – Granulation and Closure



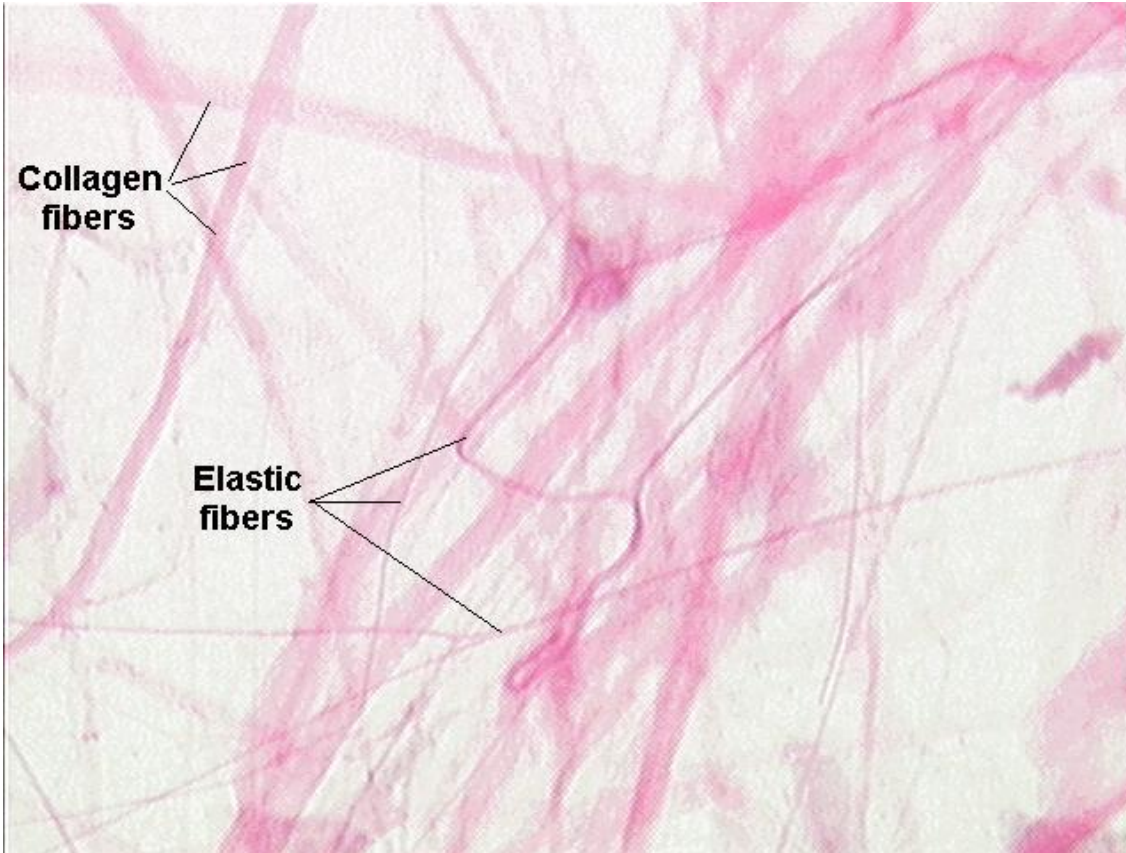
Management – Granulation and Closure

- After careful debridement of nonviable and slough within the wound bed, the phase of management is application of dressings to stimulate closure and granulation of the wound bed.
- The type of dressing/intervention is dependent upon the size and depth of the wound.
- Risk for contractures is directly related to management and choice of wound closure and debridement.

Granulation/Closure – Dressing Options



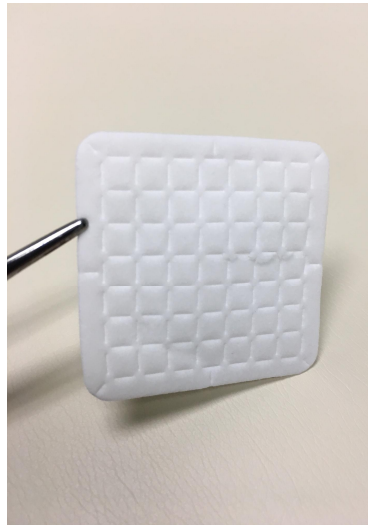
- Collagen dressings
- Placental dressings
- Non autologous skin grafts
- Negative pressure therapy



Collagen Dressing

- Collagen is an abundant fibrillar protein in the body found in skin and other connective tissues.
- Collagen dressings facilitate stimulation and deposition of skin within the wound bed much faster than without a dressing.
- Collagen dressings are derived from sheep, pigs and cows.

Collagen Dressing



- Stimulate macrophages, and keratinocytes and other growth factors
- Provide a scaffolding for host cell proliferation and migration
- Promote healthier balance of inflammatory mediators in wound
- In general, these dressings are changed anywhere from daily to weekly.
- Require secondary dressing to hold in place and secure.

Collagen Dressings

- Ideal for smaller IV extravasation injuries
- Larger wounds may require additional time to heal
 - *This increases potential for contractures to arise.*
- Should be applied every 2-3 days for best outcome but may be left in place for up to 7 days.
- No antimicrobial effect – need to monitor for infection
- Simply moisten with saline, cut to approximate size of wound and cover with secondary dressing.



Placental Grafts

- Derived from human placentas
- Composed of collagen and extracellular matrix, biologically active cells and regenerative molecules.
 - Stem cells function to regenerate new cellular materials within the lining of the membrane.
 - Regenerative molecules include fibroblast growth factors, platelet-derived growth factors, metalloproteinases and others.
 - Defensins which protect against bacterial infection.
- Increases and enhances the wound healing process
- Easy to apply
- Safe in neonates
- Expensive
- Contractures seen in personal experience.



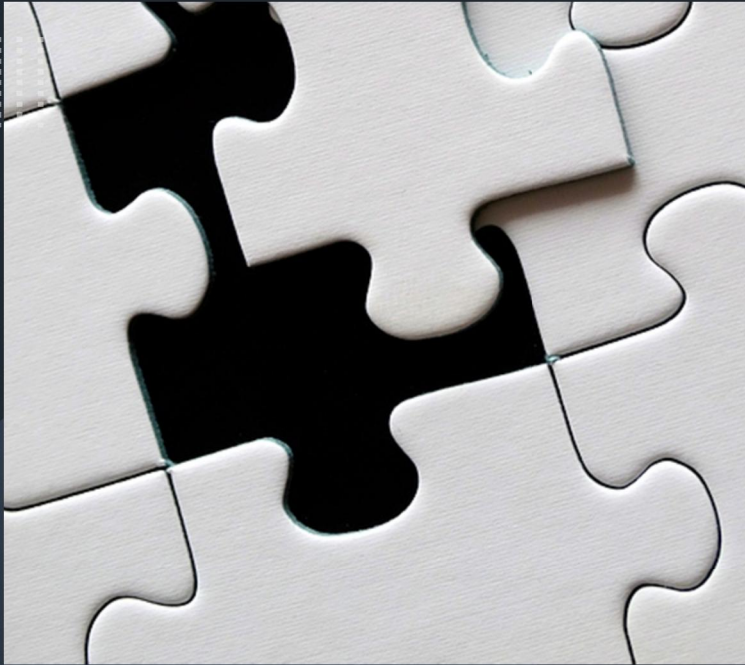


Placental Grafts

Nonautologous Skin Grafts

- Human-derived skin graft (cadaver)
- 99% DNA-free – no concerns for tissue rejection
- Biocompatible while retaining native growth factors, collagen, and elastin preserving natural structure
- Replaces the damaged extracellular matrix so living cells can flourish
- Supports angiogenesis with the presence of vascular-like channels present prior to application





Nonautologous Skin Grafts

- Easily applied, no surgery required -
 - place for 7-10 days.
- Ideal for larger wounds > 1 x 1cm, t
- “puzzle piece”
- Excellent outcomes

Role of Negative Pressure Therapy

- Following effective debridement, negative pressure therapy (wound vac) is occasionally utilized on deeper wounds to improve aesthetic outcome.
- NWT will facilitate filling in the tissue deficit “pot hole” so that subsequent dressings applied to granulate the wound will have better outcome.
- Treatment for 5-7 days is usually more than sufficient.



Complications

Complications of Extravasation Injuries

Parents should be advised that four complications are possible with any IV extravasation injury:

- Contracture— tightness of the skin at the wound resulting in reduced range of motion
- Scar formation – the appearance of the skin may not resemble normal skin adjacent to the wound.
- Infection – any open wound has a risk of infection
- Neurovascular injury – deeper wounds may result in damage to nerves and veins, resulting in altered perfusion or possible sensory/motor deficits

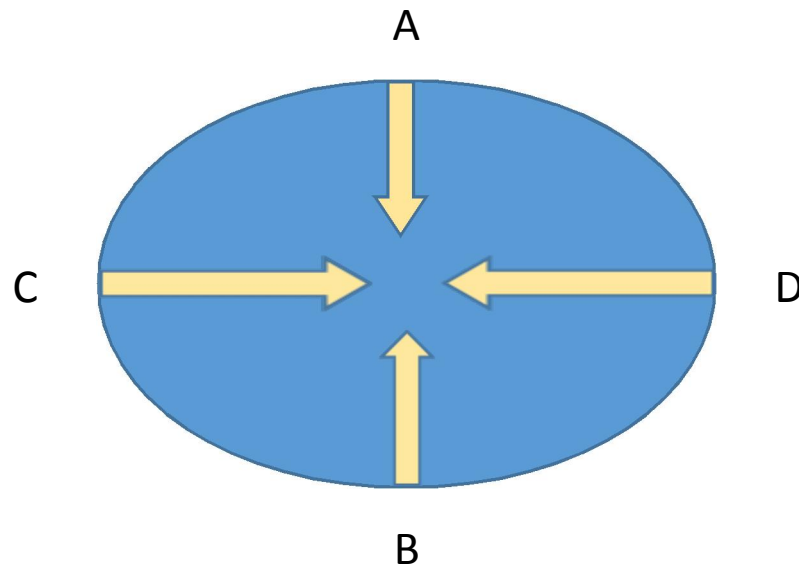
Discussion of complications should be part of the medical record.



Contractures
Important for Medical Legal Purposes

Contractures – Complications from Granulation

Larger sized wounds (greater than 2 x 2 cm) are at increased the risk for a contracture based on the wound's attempt to close and approximate the edges.



Deep wounds – Another risk for contract

- In addition to large wounds, deep wounds also increase the risk for contractures.
- Increase in the depth of the wound will also predispose to contracture and poor aesthetic/functional outcome.
- Choice of dressing will depend on depth of the wound bed.
- > 3mm in depth usually will require additional intervention (negative pressure)





Illustrative Cases



2 w/o 23-week premature infant female







3 w/o 27-week premature female



4 w/o 30-week premature infant male



2 m/o 25 week premature infant female



30 d/o 27 week premature infant female



Quiz

Which of the following is not a prognostic feature for complications from an IV extravasation?

- A. Swelling/Edema
- B. Color
- C. Location
- D. Size





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Among the following conditions, which four potential complications of an IV extravasation should family members be advised of early?



Which of the following is not a critical component to document when an extravasation is identified?

- A. Time/Date the injury was identified
- B. What was infusing at the time of injury
- C. Name of the individual responsible for the injury.
- D. Location of the catheter
- E. Wound description of initial findings

Heel warmers should be applied early in the management of all IV extravasations.

True or False?





It is best not to tell the parents when an extravasation injury has occurred. Wait for the doctor to advise the parents.

True or False



Questions?

Thank you!

Rene Amaya, MD

ramaya@amayahealing.com

713-464-9776

