Pressure Injury Prevention for Urology Surgical Procedures: A QI Initiative

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Background

• Perioperative pressure injury is defined as any pressure related injury, including non-blanchable erythema, purple discoloration, or blistering associated with operating room positioning
• Pressure Injuries (PI) are one of the leading causes of harm in healthcare settings
• Limited literature is available about PI prevention in pediatric surgical patients
• Operating room factors impacting PI development:
  o Positioning
  o Anesthesia
  o Duration of surgery
  o Patient co-morbidities

Objectives

In January 2018, the Urology department initiated a QI project on pressure injury prevention for Urology surgical procedures with the goal of:
• Establishing a patient-specific pressure injury prevention process
• Improving identification of at-risk patients
• Performing appropriate interventions related to surgical positioning
• Increasing staff knowledge and awareness of skin assessment
• Increasing staff knowledge of prevention of preoperative pressure injuries

Methods

• After recognizing pressure injuries in Urology patients, the Urology department gathered an interdisciplinary workgroup
• High risk Urology surgical procedures were identified
• Wound Care and Urology collaborated to determine intervention opportunities
• A process involving a pre-surgical WOC consult, operating room positioning (guided by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel clinical practice guidelines for the operating room), and post-operative follow-up was trialed and adopted (Figure 1)

Results

• Prior to this patient-specific prevention process, pressure injuries were identified in this population
• Zero Urology perioperative pressure injuries have been identified since the initiation of this project
• The WOC and Urology departments have significantly increased their collaboration
• Staff are more aware of and interested in pressure injury prevention strategies

Conclusion

• The interdisciplinary collaboration between the Urology department and a wound care RN has shown to be successful in prevention of pressure injuries during surgical procedures
• Staff are receptive and more actively engaged in the process
• The team plans to continue work on this process to develop shared ownership and knowledge of pressure injury prevention within other surgical specialties.

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