PRESSURE ULCER MANAGEMENT - ADDRESSING THE EXTRINSIC RISKS

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Quite often the first consideration regarding management of pressure ulcers immediately is to consider abnormal pressures under the area of skin breakdown. If the person is sitting in a wheelchair, focus of management turns towards the seating support cushion without considering other possible factors of cause. If the person is lying in bed, then immediately the bed support surface is considered. The entire allied healthcare team needs to discuss every possible intrinsic and extrinsic factor without first looking to equipment for a quick solution. A better holistic approach with greater discussion around finding the specific cause, without automatically looking to an equipment solution, will improve patient outcomes. In this interactive presentation, discussions will revolve around the goals of a proper seating system and how it can lessen a client’s risk for pressure ulcer formation. The intrinsic and extrinsic risk factors commonly associated with pressure ulcers will be discussed along with strategies to minimize the risks. Clinical practice guidelines for pressure ulcer prevention and treatment will also be reviewed.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the goals of a proper seating system
2. Discuss the use of advanced support surfaces in the management of pressure ulcers
3. Identify and plan how to manage extrinsic risk factors that contribute to pressure ulcers

References

5. National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel.

Speaker Bio

W. Darren Hammond, MPT, CWS, has held clinical positions and faculty appointments over the country for the past eighteen years. In addition to wound care, Darren’s focus of treatment has been in the rehabilitation of individuals with spinal cord injuries. Throughout his career, Darren has had extensive experience with seating and positioning, chronic wound management, pressure mapping and cushion and wheelchair prescription. He is currently the Senior Director of The ROHO Institute for Continuing Education and Research at The ROHO Group Inc. where he lectures nationally and internationally on the subjects of chronic wound healing, pressure imaging and seating and positioning options.