Use of Semipermeable Polymeric Membrane Dressing* for the Management of Postsurgical Incision Wounds in Plastic Surgery

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**PURPOSE**

Pain and delayed wound healing at the surgical site present a common problem in aesthetic surgery and its management is often neglected. Additionally, postoperative surgical site infections remain a major source of morbidity. Effective postoperative pain treatment is important in promoting quality of life and early return to daily activities.

**METHODS**

Retrospective case series analysis of 14 patients undergoing elective plastic surgery procedure was conducted. Immediately following the surgery appropriately sized sterile polymeric membrane dressings were applied to all wounds. At discharge, instructions were given for appropriate dressing changes until day 10. Postoperatively, patients were assessed for pain, experience with dressing change and analgesic use. The incision sites were examined for closure and signs of infection.

**RESULTS**

2 males, 12 females with an average age of 58.2 years (range 36-75) formed the study cohort. Across the sample, a total of 38 procedures were performed (Gynecomastia= 1, Brachioplasty= 2, Eyelip Surgery= 5, Neck/Facelift= 7, Liposuction Procedures= 12, Reconstruction Procedures= 11). With a mean follow up of 11.3± 3 days, all incision site wounds closed fully and no signs of inflammation or wound infection were observed. This significantly reduced pain and increased comfort levels in changing the dressing. There was a decreased analgesic use (n=12) compared to what would normally be expected for the respective procedures.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Polymeric membrane dressings offer effective management in reducing inflammation and wound pain while supporting rapid healing rate and improved quality of life in patients undergoing plastic surgery procedures.