

Abstracts

The International Journal of Lower
Extremity Wounds
1–18

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DOI: 10.1177/1534734620907019

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1. Investigation of Factors Related to Elevated Protease Activity in Patients With Diabetic Foot Ulcers and Measuring It by Using a Special Clinical Tool

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Aim. To investigate the patient factors that are associated with elevated protease levels in diabetic foot ulcers and measuring it by using a special clinical tool. **Materials and Methods.** Descriptive correlation approach was used in this study, and the convenience sample consisted of 15 patients with diabetic foot ulcers. Data collection was conducted in 2 phases, on the entry to the study and after 4 weeks. A database was created for the needs of the study. All the data relating to the general condition of patients, the diabetic foot ulcer, and the protease activity measurement with a specific clinical tool were recorded in it. For the statistical analyses, the SPSS 22.0 program was used. **Results.** In the study population, 8 (53.3%) were male and the mean age of the sample was 64.13 years (SD + 12.79). In the second study phase, the ulcer area seemed to be decreased (mean = 1.1 SD + 1.83) in comparison to the first phase. In the first study phase, the elevated protease activity test showed that 6 (40%) patients had elevated protease levels, while in the second phase, this number fell to 4 (26.7%). The patients factors that were positively associated with elevated protease levels, were the female gender ($P = .015$), higher value in comorbidity index ($P = .018$), neuropathy ($P = .018$), and ischemia ($P = .022$). **Conclusions.** The protease activity measurement in patients with diabetic foot ulcers that do not heal and have high comorbidity, neuropathy, and ischemia may be very useful, in order to choose an advanced therapy for protease levels' reduction in this patients group. This practice will possibly improve the wound healing in this group. Nevertheless, further studies involving larger

patient samples are needed, in order to support these findings.

2. Investigation of Parents' Knowledge About Prevention and Treatment of Burn Injuries Who Have Children Aged 0 to 10 Years

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Aim. The purpose of the study was to investigate the participants' cognitive level of measures to prevent burn injuries and provide first aid. **Materials and Methods.** The study was descriptive and quantitative, while the sample was convenience and consisted of 259 adult parents with at least one child, who completed a specific questionnaire designed for the study's purpose. The questionnaires were collected by parents at the Regular Outpatient Pediatric Units of Children's Hospitals of Attica, provided that their informed consent to participate in the study was secured. **Results.** The data analysis showed that burns prevention compliance rating was 3.40 (SD) with excellent: 6; and first aid competency rating was 3.54 (SD) with excellent: 6. The correlations revealed were the following: (1) Participants who had a fireplace in their home, who used candles, a barbecue, and a gas-fired appliance, and who used sun cream on their child when in the sun were more likely to have greater burns prevention compliance. (2) First aid scores were higher, indicating greater competence, when participants lived in a privately owned home, had a fireplace in their home, did not smoke in the home, and did not use electric heaters. (3) A positive correlation between the degree of compliance with burn prevention and the ability to provide first aid in the event of burns. **Conclusions.** The results show that there is considerable scope for improving parents' knowledge of burns prevention and first aid in children who are in danger of burns accidents, through information campaigns and educational interventions.