TITLE: Metronidazole Powder and Cream for Odour Control in Acute, Chronic, and Palliative Wounds: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 11 January 2013

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds in hospitalized or long-term care patients?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines for the use of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds?

3. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding health-care staff precautions when administering topical metronidazole for wound care?

KEY MESSAGE

Two systematic reviews, one randomized controlled trial, and one non-randomized study were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds in hospitalized or long-term care patients. One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding the use of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds.

METHODS

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, EBSCO CINAHL, The Cochrane Library (2012, Issue 12), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type.

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Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2002 and December 18, 2012. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Two systematic reviews, one randomized controlled trial, and one non-randomized study were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds in hospitalized or long-term care patients. One evidence-based guideline was identified for the use of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds. No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the health-care staff precautions when administering topical metronidazole for wound care. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Two systematic reviews,\textsuperscript{1,2} one randomized controlled trial,\textsuperscript{3} and one non-randomized study\textsuperscript{4} were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds in hospitalized or long-term care patients. There is some evidence to support the use of metronidazole for treating patients with malodorous wounds.\textsuperscript{1,3,4} Topical metronidazole 0.75\% gel was found to control wound odor and reduce drainage in large fungating wounds,\textsuperscript{4} while grade B evidence was identified for the treatment of malignant fungating wounds with topical metronidazole.\textsuperscript{1} The second systematic review found insufficient evidence for managing symptoms associated with fungating wounds.\textsuperscript{2}

One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding the use of topical metronidazole for odour control of acute, chronic, and palliative wounds.\textsuperscript{5} External administration of metronidazole to reduce odor in neoplastic ulcers was supported by grade D evidence.\textsuperscript{5}

No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding health-care staff precautions when administering topical metronidazole for wound care.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Randomized Controlled Trials


Non-Randomized Studies


Guidelines and Recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Clinical Practice Guidelines – methodology not provided

   See: 8. Odour pg. 9-7

Review Articles


Additional References
