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Use satisfaction survey of orthopedic patients with a traditional plaster cast:A pilot study

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Statement of the Problem: For patients with fractures, dislocations or physical deformity, plaster casts with calcium sulfate composition or resin plaster with vinyl polymers and glass fiber composition are commonly used traditionally. These plasters can be wrapped around limbs according to its shape, but their customized features are limited. Patients also complained a lot of inconvenience in limb protection, fixation and care. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to survey use satisfaction in patients with traditional plaster casts.

Methodology: A descriptive and comparative research design and purposive sampling were used. After obtaining the written consent, the research assistant collected data about basic information, pain scores, use satisfaction, temperature of distal limbs in plaster casts by a skin temperature sensor and pressure on the limbs covered with cast by a force sensor after casting plasters for 15-20 minutes and before the removal of the plaster.

Findings: A total of 14 patients agreed to participate in this study. There were downward trends in the pain scores and pressure on the limbs covered with cast, but not in the temperature of distal limbs during plasters casting. After casting plasters for 15-20 minutes, the first three most unsatisfactory items were easy degrees of skin cleaning and the convenience of wound care on the limbs covered with cast, and the comfort of gypsum use. Before the removal of the plasters, the first three most unsatisfactory items were easy degrees of skin cleaning on the limbs covered with cast, the convenience of the set-up and removal of the plasters and the permeability of the plasters.

Conclusion & Significance: The results can be referred to the 3D printing center to create customized 3D printed casts, and then, apply in clinics for improving patient care quality.

Biography

Hua-Shan Wu is a Head and Associate Professor in Department of Nursing at Asia University in Taiwan. Her research interests include two aspects for clinical practice and nursing education. In the field of clinical practice, exploring clinical concern phenomenon (e.g., dyspnea, eating difficulty, quality of life and care satisfaction) and analyzing the effects of implementing evidence-based interventions (e.g., acupressure, massage, respiratory training, memory training, spaced retrieval, errorless learning and Montessori training) in adults or the elderly with chronic dyspnea, cognitive impairment, disability and dementia. As for the field of nursing education, effects of different teaching strategies, involving multimedia situated learning, service-learning, problem-based learning and flipped classroom, are also investigated.

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