



WOUND HEALING

DERMOTAXIS- A NOVEL TECHNIQUE FOR NON-HEALING ULCER MANAGEMENT

Salim Thurakkal⁽¹⁾

Cutis Institute, Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery, Calicuti, India⁽¹⁾

Non-healing ulcers constitute a difficult problem in routine dermatologic practice. When the ulcers are large and deep skin grafting may be withheld for a longer period. Dermotaxis is a newer technique for treating such ulcers. Dermotaxis is a technique of expanding the adjacent skin and subcutis to cover the wound by gradual compression. Tissue expansion is made by gradual pulling force by skin approximators.

Objective of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of dermotaxis in the management of non-healing ulcers.

Materials & Methods: 11 patients (M:F 8:3) aged between 24 and 53 years were included in this study. Mini bone distracters and Kirschner wires used in orthopedic surgery were used. K-wire was passed subcutaneously along two sides of the ulcer. Bone distracters were then attached to these k-wires which served as skin approximator. Periodic adjustment of the distracters resulted in approximation of the edges, which was sutured. K-wires were removed later.

Results: Complete healing occurred in all cases that completed the study. Noncompliance resulted in discontinuation of treatment in 1 case. Minimal erosion at the contact site of distracters was noted in 1 case.

Conclusion: Dermotaxis is an effective surgical option in the management of deep non-healing ulcers. It provides full thickness cover to the wound which matches the surrounding normal skin in quality, sensations and colour.

