WOUND HEALING

PLATELET RICH PLASMA: THE MAGIC POTION FOR CHRONIC NON HEALING ULCERS

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Background: Chronic non-healing ulcers are a major cause of morbidity and have great social and financial impact on the patient's life. The common causes include venous dysfunction, diabetes mellitus, peripheral neuropathy and systemic illness. A high percentage of these do not respond to the standard treatment modalities. Application of autologous Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) has been a major breakthrough for the treatment of non-healing ulcers. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the efficacy and safety of PRP therapy for treatment of chronic non-healing ulcers

Materials and Methods: The study comprised of 14 patients with non-healing ulcers of different etiologies {venous ulcer (8), diabetic foot(2), leprosy trophic ulcers(2), pyoderma gangrenosum (PG, 2)}, who met the inclusion criteria. Autologous PRP was prepared from whole blood by the manual double spin method and the patients were treated with 5 injections of PRP given subcutaneously at the local site, at interval of 10 days. The results were monitored with serial photography and appropriate wound measurement outcomes.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 43.1 ± 14.49 years and they were followed-up for a period of 16 weeks. The results at the end of 5 injections:
7 venous ulcer (n=8), 1 diabetic ulcer (n=2), 2 leprotic ulcer(n=2) and 1 PG ulcer (n=2), showed marked improvement with 82.5% mean reduction in wound surface area and mean duration of ulcer healing was 9.1 weeks. One patient of PG dropped from the study after 1st session due to increase in size of lesion post-injection, possible pathergy response. No adverse events were noted in other patients.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates the utility of PRP for treatment of chronic non-healing ulcers, being simple, effective, safe and inexpensive.