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Case Series Studying Nosocomial Pressure Ulcers in the Post-Operative CABG patient.

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Common places that
breakdown on a CBAG Patient

PURPOSE

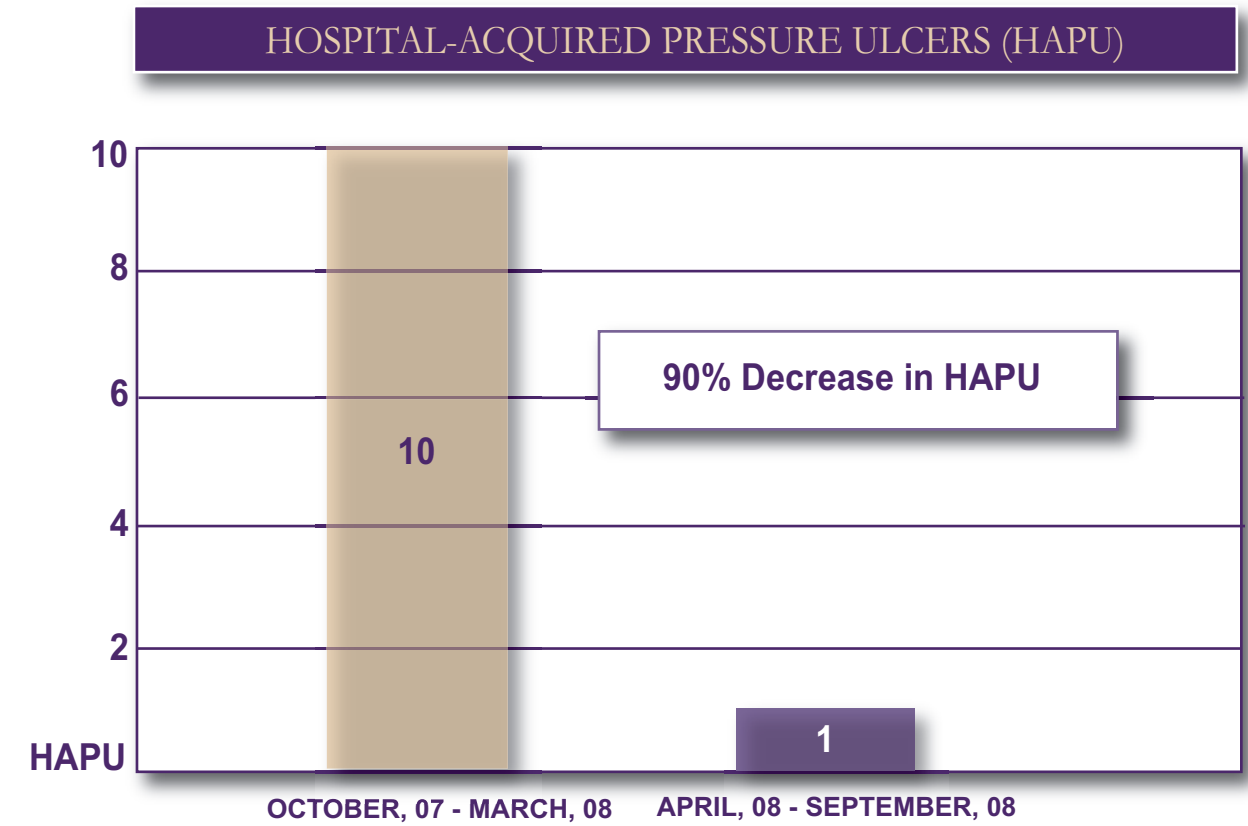
To decrease the incidence of pressure ulcers among
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) patients
post-operatively in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit.

METHODS

Background: Post-op CABG patients are at high risk for de-
veloping pressure ulcers. A thorough literature review re-
vealed little research on preventing pressure ulcers through
the early implementation of a static air overlay in this popula-
tion.

Intervention: The intervention for this project was a simple
two part approach. First the implementation of a protocol re-
quiring the immediate use of a static air overlay for all post-op
CABG patients upon transfer to ICU from the operating room.
The education of nurses was the second part and it had three
tiers: 1) Affirming prior knowledge regarding prevention of
pressure ulcers and clearly identifying the problem in their
area 2) Review of pressure ulcer prevention guidelines and
policy changes 3) Conveying to staff recent advances in the
field of pressure ulcer staging, development and treatment.

Sample: Two hundred and thirty patients experienced the in-
tervention. Patient's ages ranged from 27 to 88 with 61% be-
tween 50 and 70 years old. Thirty-eight percent had Diabetes
Mellitus and the average BMI was 29.43. None of the patients
in the study were on immunosuppressive therapy.



RESULTS

Ten pressure ulcers in this hospital population occurred in the six months
prior to the intervention. One pressure ulcer occurred in the six months fol-
lowing the intervention.

CONCLUSION

This simple and low cost intervention not only dramatically reduced nosoco-
mial pressure ulcer occurrence in a post-operative CABG population. But hav-
ing this combination of protocols set into place and staff education elevated
the nurses' awareness of skin integrity changes thus providing them with tools
to diminish the incidence of pressure ulcers.