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ADDITION OF PENICILLIN TO STANDARD OF CARE IN HEALING OF ULCERS IN CHRONIC VENOUS HYPERTENSION

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Aim:
To compare reduction in ulcer size, recurrence rate, pain score & improvement in quality of life (QOL) in patients receiving standard care (SoC) for chronic venous ulcer with & without concomitant treatment with Inj. Benzathine penicillin 1.2 mega units intramuscular (IM) every 3 weekly for 6 months.

Objective:
Reduction in ulcer size, recurrence rate, pain score & improvement in quality of life(QOL) in patients receiving standard care (SoC) with & without concomitant treatment with Inj. Benzathine penicillin 1.2 mega units intramuscular (IM) every 3 weekly for 6 months.

Background:
Chronic ulcers are one of the most difficult diseases to treat with socioeconomic impact, due to pain, recurrence & morbidity. Compression therapy with surgical & endovascular procedure is often required for management. Venous hypertension leads to oedema followed by micro lymphangiopathy & dermato-lymphangio-adenitis (DLA), which is attributed to recurrence of symptoms & eventually ulcers. Role of Injection (Inj) Benzathine Penicillin has been well established in treating lymphangitis. However, its role in venous ulcers hasn’t been studied before.
Results:

66 patients with total 103 venous ulcers, baseline characteristics of both groups were statistically similar, however, ulcers did not follow a normal distribution at presentation & there was a significant difference between mean ulcer size among the groups (p=0.04). Compared with the control arm (N=32, 49 ulcers), the study arm (N=34, 54 ulcers) was associated with a higher number of healed ulcers. Mean size of ulcers decreased in both the arms with a statistically significant difference in study arm (p=0.03). Patients of study arm had lesser no. of recurrence. Pain control was improved in both arms, with significant difference favouring study group (p=0.001). Significant difference in various domains of QoL was noted (p=0.001). There were decreased attacks of DLA and limb swellings in both groups. With much more improved results in the study arm (p=0.001).

Conclusions:

Inj. Benzathine Penicillin administration along with SoC among chronic venous recurrent ulcers had beneficial effects on ulcer healing, QoL, recurrence, DLA & pain.

Conflict of Interest
None