

Reducing the Incidence of Pressure Injuries
in the Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit

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INTRODUCTION

In the neurosurgical ICU of a medical center in central Taiwan, the clinical outcomes of pressure injuries (PI) exceed hospital standards of care for patients with brain or spinal cord injuries. These patients are more susceptible to pressure injuries due to abnormal sensory nerve and muscle motor control functions, increasing the chances of pain and infection. Severe infections may even cause septic shock and death, further increasing medical expenses and hospitalization time. It is essential to reintegrate medical and nursing directions, adhering to the hospital's core values of "respecting patients, valuing employees, and taking pride in the hospital" to reduce the incidence of pressure injuries in the neurosurgical ICU.

When
tension
be soft

For patients with paralysis, it is necessary to strengthen the prevention of PI at the bony protrusions.

For patients with stiff limbs, gently and slowly relax the affected limb several times before turning over and positioning

When
paralysis
use mat

METHOD

Many patients in the neurosurgical ICU have impaired consciousness, limited limb movement, and the inability to express themselves. Therefore, staff must have keen observation skills and a strong sense of responsibility. The planning team worked with the department's head nurse, ward physician, pharmacist, nutritionist, and rehabilitation therapist to develop customized measures, including making signage, posting pressure injury grading cards, designing flipping review sheets, and conducting courses on pressure injury physics, correct turning and positioning, designing a pressure injury assessment form specific to this department, and adjusting the frequency and content of cross-team care discussions.

Through these simple slogans, the purpose is to facilitate memory, deepen the impression of colleagues, and standardize the care behavior of unit staff.



CONCLUSIONS

Most neurosurgery patients have nerve damage and are bedridden for long periods of time after surgery, causing cases of pressure injuries to continue to occur.

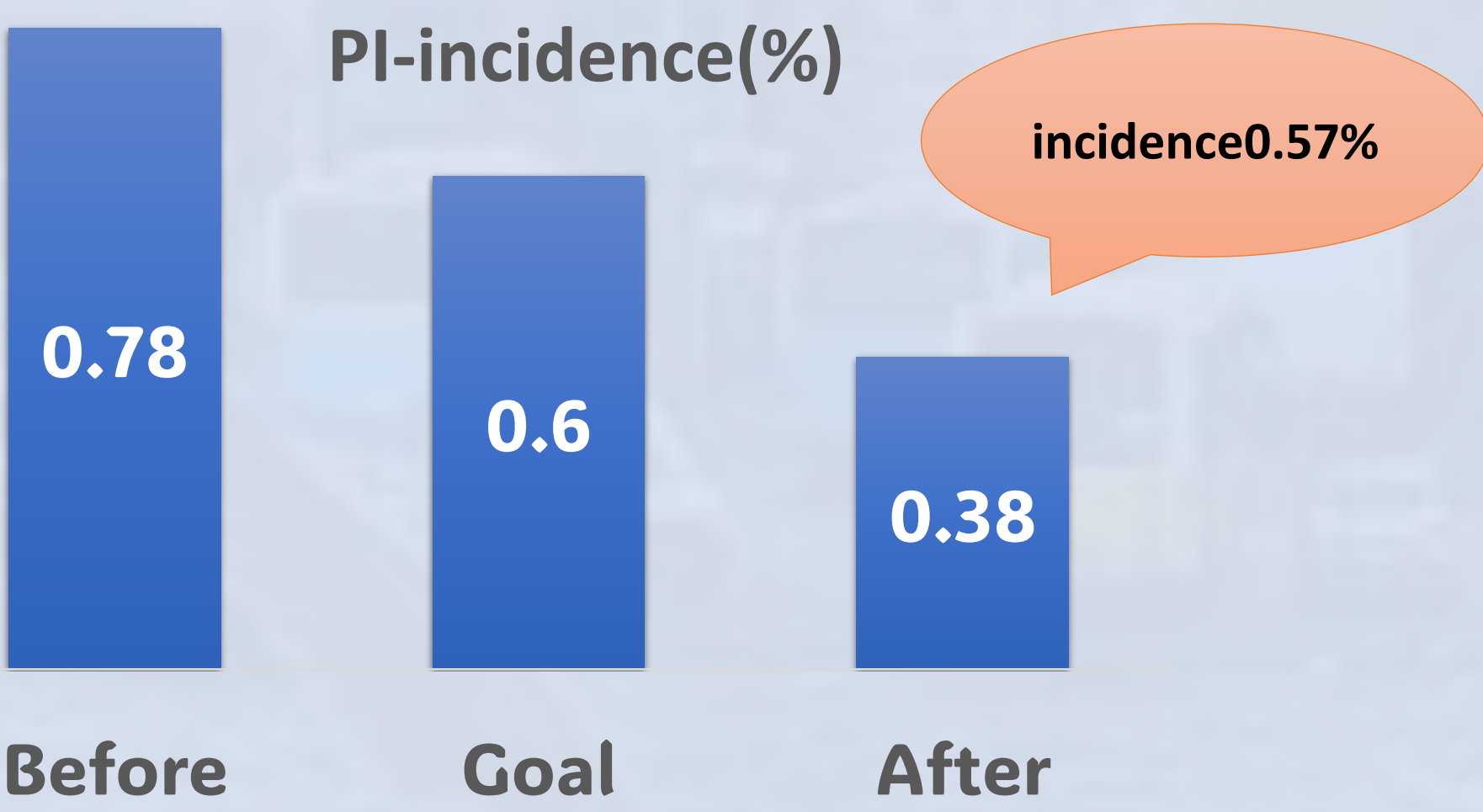
The project members continually adjust the care model to improve the nursing staff's ability to recognize and perform PI care and turnover skills, thereby reducing the incidence of PI events.

Due to the shortage of nursing staff in recent years, it is recommended that family members participate and jointly monitor the patient's health status. In this process, trust, respect, effective and empathetic communication are established to achieve whole-person care.

RESULTS

Through consistent, team-wide, patient-centered discussions, the rate of pressure injuries in the neurosurgical ICU decreased from 0.78% to 0.38%.

Continuously improving the nursing staff's understanding and implementation of pressure injury care and turning techniques enhances the efficiency of pressure injury prevention. Integrating the correct care processes within the ward is essential.



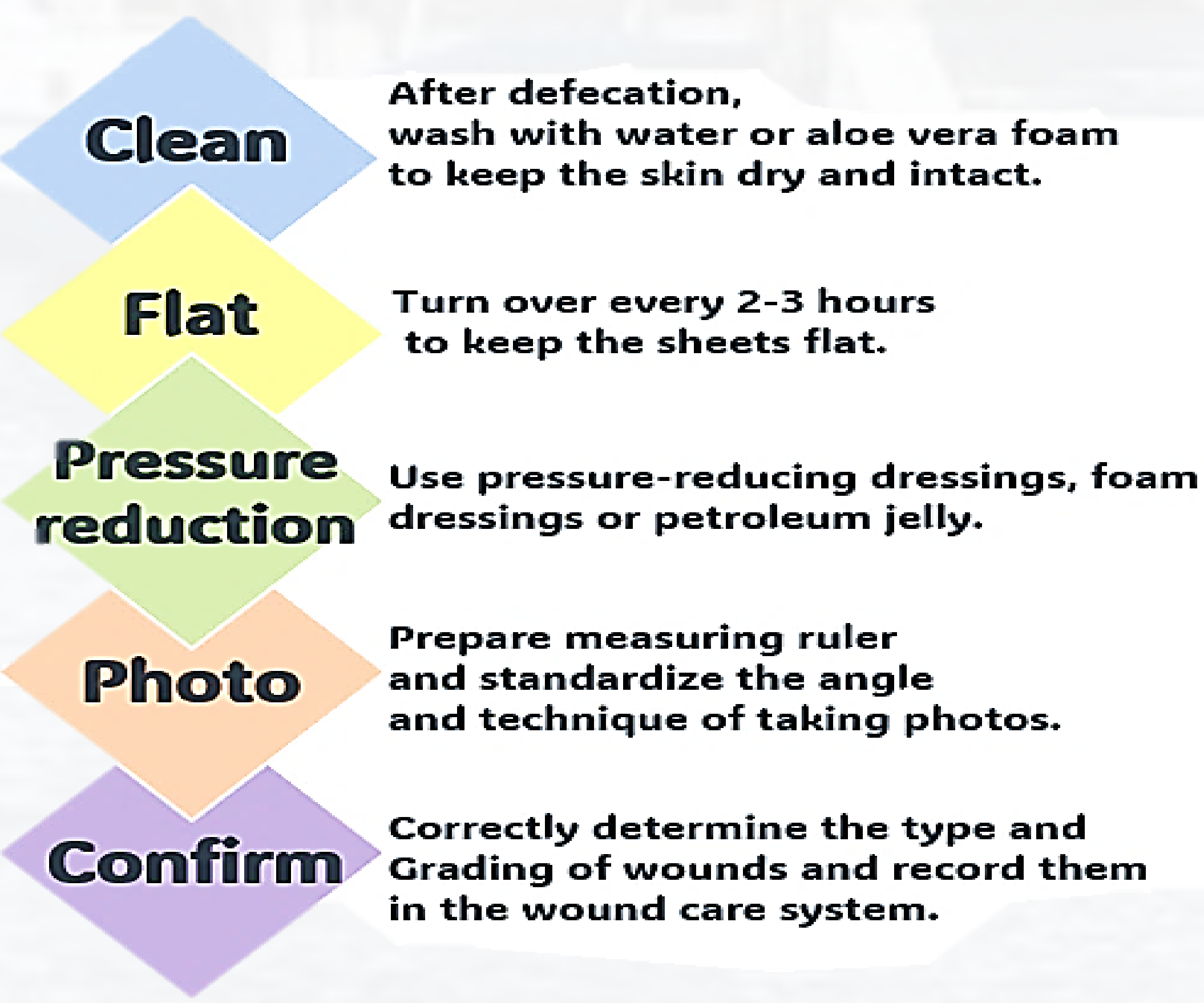
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醫起防起來
Protect against iatrogenic "PI" together

翻身翻的好，壓損沒煩惱
I can turn over well and have carefree about "PI"

營養跟著我，壓傷遠離我
Nutrition follows me, "PI" stay away from me

抬高雙腳與雙手、水腫跟著走
Raise your feet and hands, edema go away

65預定行
Prevent "PI" together with those over 65 years old