NECROTISING FASCIITIS | A REVIEW OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND CLINICAL RESULTS

VIVIAN PHAN, MBChB, MRCS

NHS
University Hospitals Birmingham

INTRODUCTION

Necrotising fasciitis (NF) is a life-threatening soft tissue infection, characterised by rapidly spreading infection and necrosis of the subcutaneous tissue and fascia. Core management includes a quick diagnosis, early surgical debridement and broad-spectrum antibiotics. Despite this, the condition has high morbidity and mortality.

AIM

We aimed to evaluate the current management of NF and patient outcome in the last 5 years within UHB, UK.

METHOD

This was a retrospective study. All patients diagnosed with NF across our hospitals between 2017 and 2022 were identified. The initial diagnosis was established based on clinical presentation, laboratory results, and CT imaging. LRINEC score was calculated from biochemistry results. Electronic records were analysed for demographics, risk factors, microbiology results, therapeutic parameters, and patient outcome.

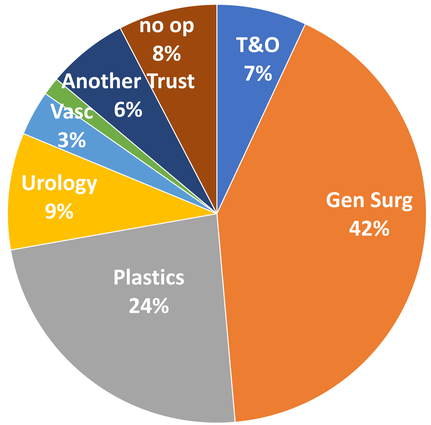
RESULTS

There were 144 patients admitted with NF over the 5-year period, 17% of which were post-operative infections. The at-risk patient was male, in their mid-fifty's, with clinical obesity (mean BMI = 31), cardiovascular/respiratory diseases. Commonest sites of infection are lower limbs and abdominal wall. The mean LRINEC score was 8.

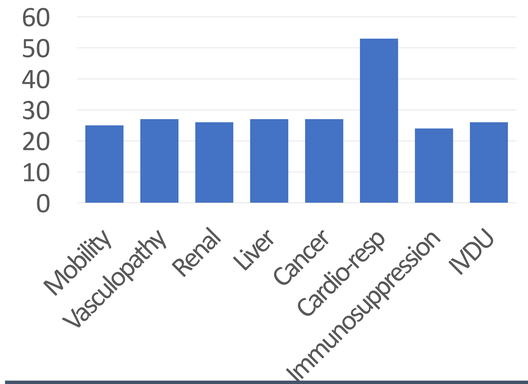
The majority of patients were shared between General Surgery and Plastics. 60% of cases were debrided within 48 hours of diagnosis. Causative organisms were mainly E. coli, Streptococcus and polymicrobial. There was a 44% adherence to Trust guideline for antimicrobial prescribing, which is IV Meropenem and Clindamycin. 7% of patients were managed non-operatively due to poor fitness for surgery.

The average patient had 4 debridements. Most stayed in ICU post-operatively (57%), needed a tracheostomy, stoma, and skin grafts. Median length of stay was 28 days and mortality was 15%.

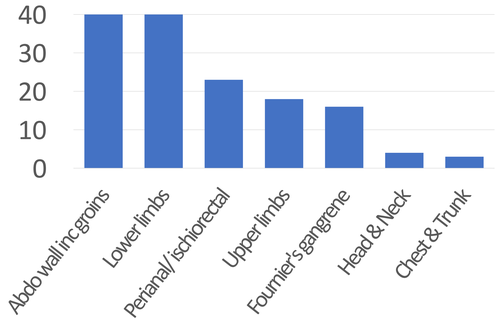
Operative Distribution by Specialty



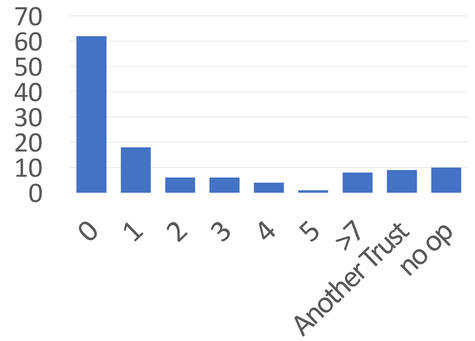
Risk Factors



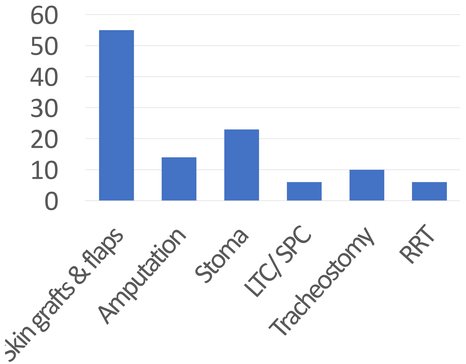
Sites of Infection



Days to First Op



Other Interventions





Necrotising Fasciitis – before and after debridement (different patients)



CONCLUSION

Necrotising Fasciitis (NF) is a challenging disease that requires timely and aggressive surgical intervention.

Surgeons should be aware of the risk factors, clinical presentation and management principles to ensure favourable patient outcomes.