The Impact of Care Practices and Health Demographics on the Prevalence of Skin Tears and Pressure Injuries in Aged Care

Skin wounds are a big component to take into consideration while taking care of resident's in a LTCF. This study's aim was to determine whether differences in care practices and demographics between two different LTCFs affected the incidence of skin wounds. This 2016 study compared two LTCFs for a six month period. The frequency of skin tears did not differ between the homes. Use of heel protectors and antiembolic stockings was associated with a reduction of skin tears. On the other hand, a diagnosis of vascular dementia was associated with a higher number of skin wounds. Additonally, increased use of strategies involving tray tables and bed rails, and impair cognitive function was associated with a higher amount of pressure injuries.

It is important to approach skin care in a holistic manner. The study points out that good hygiene and repositioning are well known for reducing the number of tears and pressure injuries.

To review the full paper, please go here: https://doi-org/10.1111/jocn.14287