



Case Report

Application of haemoglobin spray in wound bed preparation in scald burns

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Abstract

Wound is a common problem following burn, trauma or infection. There are various methods to limit the infection and to cover the raw area. Before definitive cover, the wound bed must be ready to accept the reconstructive procedure. Various methods help in wound bed preparation. Recently haemoglobin spray has been advocated to hasten the wound bed preparation. In this article, we share our experience of using innovative haemoglobin spray in wound bed preparation.

Keywords: Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO), Hypoxia, GranuloxTM

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1. Introduction

Wound is a common problem encountered by plastic surgeons. The wound that fails to heal in three weeks is considered as a chronic wound. Various factors may lead to chronic or non-healing wounds. Diabetes mellitus is among the most important cause that may result in a non-healing ulcer, especially in lower limbs. Many methods do exist which are claimed to hasten the healing with varying success. Poor oxygenation of tissue is a factor that leads to poor wound healing. Recently haemoglobin spray has been claimed to accelerate wound healing by delivering oxygen to wound bed. In the review of the literature, we have seen very few Indian studies on haemoglobin spray in wound management. We share our experience of using innovative haemoglobin spray in wound management.

2. Materials and Methods

This is a case report of the use of innovative haemoglobin spray in a Scald burn wound. This study was conducted in a JIPMER, tertiary care hospital in August 2025, a case of 35 years old female with scald burns (15%). Informed written consent was taken from the patient. The patient had a raw area over the right gluteal region, right lumbar region

following the scald burns (**Figure 1**). The patient was thoroughly investigated. Wound tissue culture was sent and appropriate antibiotic therapy was given. Regular cleaning and dressings were done for one week. To promote the healing, decision was made to give trial therapy of innovative haemoglobin spray therapy.

Under all aseptic precautions, 2.7ml of blood was harvested from the antecubital vein. It was mixed with 0.3ml of 3.8% sodium citrate solution (Na-citrate to blood ratio=1:9) to prevent coagulation. The blood was transferred to a centrifugation tube and a cap with the spray and nozzle mechanism was placed on it (**Figure 2**). The blood was sprayed uniformly on the wound and a sterile dressing with chitosan was applied. The wound was assessed weekly by clinical examination.

3. Results

With regular application of haemoglobin spray, the wound starts granulating and size also decreased. The wound healing was measured using BJWAT score. Before the application of haemoglobin spray, it was 32 (**Figure 1**). After three weeks, it reduced to 18. The wound also developed red healthy granulation tissue and epithelialisation.

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Figure 1: Showing condition of raw area thermal burn at the time of presentation.



Figure 2: Showing application of haemoglobin spray over the raw area.



Figure 3: Showing the wound after the application of haemoglobin spray.

4. Discussion

Oxygen is vital to wound healing. Temporary hypoxia stimulates wound healing while chronic hypoxia leads to a non-healing wound. The rate, at which all normal wounds heal, is shown to be oxygen-dependent. Fibroblast replication, collagen deposition, angiogenesis, resistance to infection, and intracellular leukocyte bacterial killing are oxygen-sensitive responses essential to normal wound healing.^{1,2} Evidence suggests that intermittent oxygenation of wound bed starts a cascade of events that leads to wound

healing. Increased tissue oxygen level leads to an increase in reactive oxygen and nitrogen species. This leads to enhanced neovascularization by increased levels of VEGF, TGF-beta, angiopoietin, etc. There is increased ECM formation due to raised FGF expression and increase rate of collagen synthesis. It also reduces inflammation by decreasing oedema, decreasing pro-inflammatory cytokines etc.^{3,4}

The most widely utilized modality to increase the local tissue oxygen level is hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy was first used in the field of wound care in the 1960s following the discovery that patients with burns who received treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning healed more quickly.^{4,5}

More recently the role of topical oxygen therapy, without the need for full-body hyperbaric chambers, has come into existence. However, not all patients can tolerate or have access to the HBO chamber. Granulox™ is a commercially available product from In First Ltd, UK, which is designed to be more straightforward to deliver oxygen to tissue than HBO. The product, Granulox™, contains porcine haemoglobin contained in a spray canister. It is applied twice weekly to a DFU wound during redressing, and can be used in a clinic or patient's home setting. When Granulox is sprayed, haemoglobin binds to atmospheric oxygen.^{6,7}

Once saturated with oxygen, the haemoglobin becomes oxy-haemoglobin (HbO₂), which diffuses to the base of the wound, and increases the oxygen supply to the cells by diffusion.^{8,9} We have used our innovative way of using the patient's blood for spraying oxygen by using a simple glass vial and a cap with a nozzle and spray mechanism.

5. Conclusion

In this study, we found that haemoglobin spray has a role in wound bed preparation. The wound shows granulation at a faster rate. But since it is a single case study, a definite conclusion cannot be made. Large randomized control trials are required to confirm the efficacy of haemoglobin spray in wound bed preparation.

6. Source of Funding

None.

7. Conflict of Interest

None.

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