

Guest Editorial

Patient education is equally important

“Wound” is a new, rapidly advancing specialty with an explosion of knowledge in the areas of aetiopathogenesis, pathophysiology, prevention and therapy. A lot of new things have come up to aid early, uncomplicated healing of wounds as well as in the understanding of its behavior and newer therapies.

“Wound” science has generated a huge interest amongst researchers, surgeons, physicians as well as pharmaceutical companies at the turn of the century. We, as reconstructive surgeons are very closely involved with the healing of wounds and many a times we use our ingenuity and innovate to tackle difficult cases. Our interest in the field and the rapid evolution in research and clinical practice calls for frequent updates. Reviewing the various aspects of any condition is the only way to keep abreast with the explosion of knowledge. Hence, it is appropriate to bring out a supplement of Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery on the theme “WOUND”.

“Wound care” requires a multidimensional and a multidisciplinary approach. We surgeons always talk of conservative or surgical approach to it. Occasionally we also talk of basic sciences and basic research. But the patient’s cooperation in the management of any wound is a very important aspect. One needs to repeatedly interact with patients and answer their queries, some of which are very pertinent. Why my wound is not healing? What is the impact of my systemic disease on wound healing? When should you call it intractable or chronic? How can I help in the management? What are the risks of late healing? How will my wound heal? What is the role of surgery? etc. By answering all these questions, we will make the patient wiser and more compliant with

the requirements of wound care. By appropriate patient awareness, half the battle is conquered.

Now a days we come across many knowledgeable patients asking for newer developments in wound care and how helpful these new developments are for the management of their wounds. This special issue of Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery has been designed to review the old and new aspects of wound research and care. We have invited a host of National and International authors, who are masters in their own right. Our chief editor will take us through the history of wound healing in his editorial. Dr Waldemar I. Olszewski of Poland is one of the most sought after researcher for writing on “systemic response to lymphatic immune system”. Another important basic science advancement is biomarker. Dr. Suneet Sood and Dr. Dinker Pai from Malaysia have highlighted its role. Dr. Chadwick, Heath and Mamta Shah have shared their experience on “abnormal pigmentation in burn scar”. Andrew Burd from Hong Kong is a very popular surgeon, speaker and writer in India who has contributed the article “wound care centre for children”. He along with Huang Lin have also reviewed the most sought after topic of role of stem cells in burns and wound. Moris Topaz of Israel is the most appropriate author for the topic “RNPT and RO-NPT” as he has original research in the field of negative pressure therapy and wound closure. Dr. Halim Sukari has enlightend us on ‘Wound bed preparation’. To enlarge upon the horizon of wound care Dr. Dorai Ananda has taken the mantle of alternative medicine. Dr. Mehmet Habcrall of Turkey has brought magnetic field to the care of wounds. The true advance in teaching and training is ‘Simulation technology’ and Dr. Dinker Pai from Malaysia has done true justice to it.

We have also invited some of the best national talents to review various aspects of wound management. One can understand that it is practically impossible to cover every possible topic in a supplementary issue of a journal. In the ever expanding knowledge in the field of wounds, what this issue brings out is only the tip of the iceberg of knowledge. This tip is an indication of enormous development in the field of wound and wound care. This

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www.ijps.org

DOI:

10.4103/0970-0358.101258

reviews most of the common clinical types of wounds. Apart from these, there are articles on telemedicine, bandaging, newer topical agents and skin substitutes. The editorial group remains indebted to each and every author and co-author for responding to our invitation positively and promptly. The editorial board is aware of the shortcomings of this issue in the sense that we could not cover many more important topics because of logistic reasons.

This issue contains some of the futuristic topics like simulation, stem cells, biomarkers, telemedicine etc. The authors have reviewed the topics extensively in the background of their personal vast experience. This issue represents the knowledge and clinical experience of the some of the leading experts on “wound”. While compiling the issue, I am definitely an enlightened person on ‘wound’. It is a dream come true for me to have been able to compile an issue which contains land mark articles. I wish every reader will be benefited from these articles.

I am grateful to the chief editor of Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Surajit Bhattacharya for believing in me and entrusting this task of bringing out this theme issue. He

not only assigned the job to me, but was keeping a close tab on me on day to day basis and periodically reminding me of my job. I acknowledge the participation of peers for reviewing the articles. Their in depth knowledge and experience has helped in improving the presentation of many manuscripts, and their suggestions have transformed many articles.

I wish that the reader will appreciate the importance of this special issue in the understanding of “wound”. I also wish that clinicians, academicians, researchers and the trainees will all benefit immensely from this issue.

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How to cite this article: Agrawal K. Patient education is equally important. Indian J Plast Surg 2012;45:180-1.