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RESEARCH ARTICLE

COVERAGE OF LOSS OF SUBSTANCES FOLLOWING NECROTIZING FASCIITIS

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Abstract

Necrotizingfasciitis is a rare infection of the skin and deepsubcutaneous tissues rapidlyprogressing to necrosis. It is a medico-surgical emergency whose management charge ismultidisciplinary, it is life-threateningwith a mortality rate rangingfrom 20 to 30%. Weconducted a retrospectivestudyincluding 20 patients in whom the diagnosis of necrotizingfasciitiswasretained. The purpose of thisstudyis to detailourtherapeuticexperienceduringthisperiod in the management of necrotizingfasciitis and comparisonwithliterature data. All our patients received emergency medical and surgicaltreatment. Directedhealingwascarried out in 100% of our patients, simple in 95% and with VAC negative pressure therapyin 5% of cases with an average duration hospitalization of 15 days (rangingfrom 3 to 60 days) leading to completehealingin 10%, the remaining 90% provided skin graftcoverage. 95% of our patients weresatisfiedwith the result. 100% of our patients weretranslated post- surgerywith a physiotherapist for preventive rehabilitation of sequelaeretractable.

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Introduction:-

Necrotizingfasciitis (NF) isa rare rapidlyprogressing, inflammatory infection of the fascia with the secondaryinvolvement of skin, subcutaneous tissues and muscle (Morgan, 2010). The infection ishiglyassociatedwithvery quick progressive necrosis of any of the layers in the soft tissue compartment, such as dermis, subcutaneous tissue, superficial fascia, deep fascia and muscle (Mulcahy and Richardson, 2010). NF is a severeform of soft tissue infection. Several terminologies wereused to describenecrotizingfasciitis (NF) such as hospitalgangrene, streptococcalgangrene, acute dermalgangrene, suppurative fasciitis, necrotizingerysipelas and synergisticnecrotizing cellulites. Wilson, (1952) gave the term 'necrotizingfasciitis' to describe the disease and stillitis the preferredterminology in thesedays, as itdescribes the most consistent and key features of the disease due to characteristicnecrosis of the fascia related to the lesion. The high morbidity and mortalityassociatedwith the diseasemakesit an emergency. Earlydebridementprovides a favourableoutcome. Hence, itis a surgical emergency. More than 90% of NF patients mayalsoneed intensive care and organsupportivetherapy and thismakesit a medical emergency. The coverage of the loss of substance secondary to the flattening of the FN uses severalmeansrangingfrom the simplest (primary and secondaryhealing, skin grafting) to the mostcomplicated (Locoregional or free flaps).

The originality of thisstudyis, on the one hand, to present a series of DHBN-FNstreated and monitored over the past five years, and on the other hand, to compare the therapeuticresultswiththose of the literature.

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Material And Methods:-

This work is a retrospective study with a descriptive aim and analytical from January 2019 to January 2021 in patients admitted to the surgery department plastic and burns from the Marrakech University Hospital for DHBN-FN. Patient data was collected on the basis of medical records and operating reports using the archives and the HOSIX administrative system and finally a previously established operating sheet. In terms of methods, our patients benefited from a gesture to cover the loss of substance after two stages, the first a flattening of the necrotizing fasciitis under general anesthesia, and the second a directed healing.

Results:-

Directed Healing



Figure 1

All our patients were candidates for directed healing in 95% of uncomplicated cases and in the remaining 5% by negative pressure (VAC).

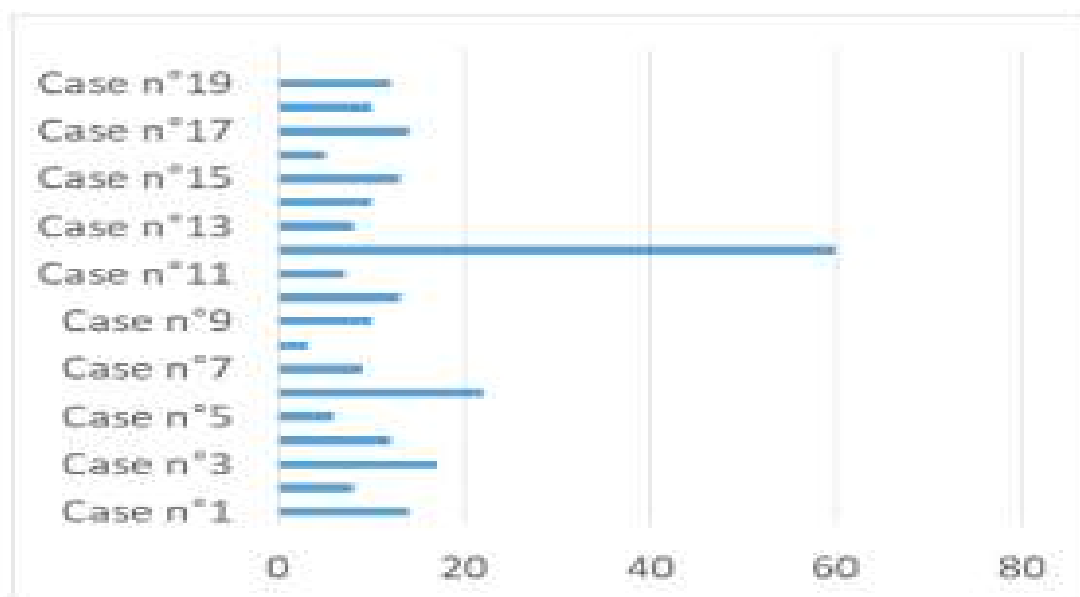


Figure 2

The average hospitalization in our series is 13 days with extremes ranging from 3 to 60 days which remains lower than the average described in the literature and also in the study of Mr. Ahmedou EL ALEM () in 2017 which was 23 days with extremes ranging from 17 days and 54 days and 33 days for the experience at the Nancy CHRU between 2005 and 2014.

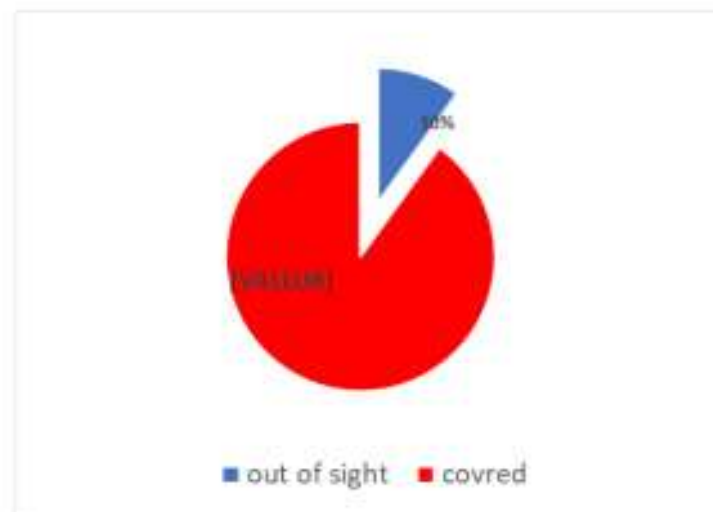


Figure 3

This can be explained by the protocol of our service which is to monitor patients on an outpatient basis with pro-inflammatory dressings in order to obtain a satisfactory base ment after having suppressed the general and local infection and stabilized the patient on all levels.

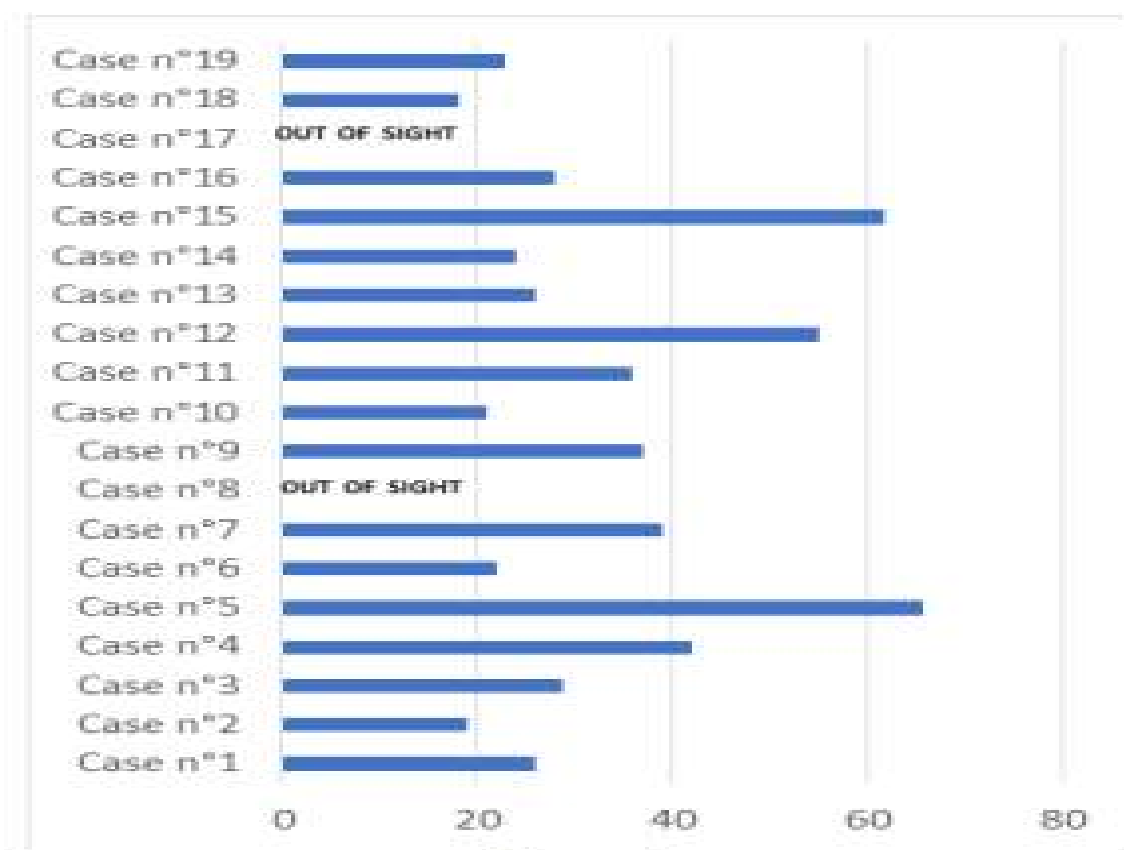


Figure 4

Coverage by skin graft was used in 90%, making it the most common reconstruction procedure, knowing that the remaining 10% were lost to sight.

This agrees with data from the literature and also from the study at the University Hospital of Nancy between 2005 and 2014 with a rate of 48%.

In our series, the coverage time is 33 days as described in the literature ranging from 21 to 30 days

In the case of a non-suturable PDS or without exposure of noble structure, which was the case in our series, skin grafting is often the treatment of choice given its simplicity and reliability in these often fragile patients.

But it is necessary to strive to anticipate the retractile and chronic sequelae often found.

The cell culture of keratinocytes is attractive but is only possible for large surfaces). Moreover, it requires a specific laboratory and a significant additional cost.

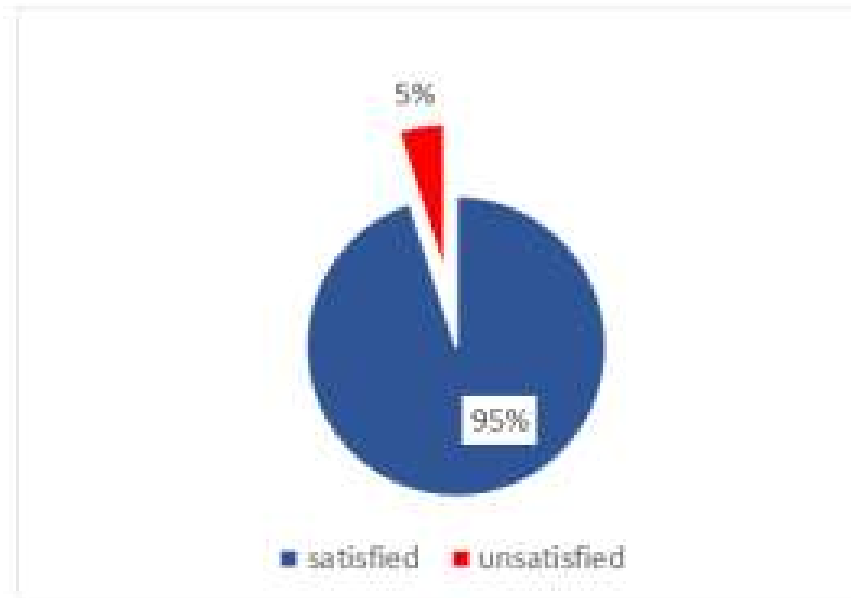


Figure 5

Some authors also propose the use of artificial dermis, the advantage of which is the immediate coverage allowing reduction of protein and electrolyte losses, protection against contamination, reduction of pain during care



100% of our patients were referred postoperatively to a physiotherapist for preventive rehabilitation of retractile sequelae. 95% of our patients were satisfied with the results.

Here, we are in front of a 55-year-old patient, with a history of type II diabetes which represents the essential risk factor, she presented to the emergency room for thoraco-abdominal necrotizing fasciitis which was flattened several times. On several occasions, on D8 the infection was controlled with obtaining a wide PDS exposing the bone opposite the first rib, we opted for healing directed by negative pressure given that the patient has the means to get some.

**J55****J62**

At 55 days a clean red bud was obtained, 7 days later she was admitted to the operating room for a semi-thick expanded mesh skin graft with trephination of exposed bone, resulting in a PDS of 10mm/7mm

**J60 Post op**

We saw the patient again in consultation with complete healing.

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