

HYALURONATE-IODINE COMPLEX NEW METHOD IN COMPLICATED CARDIO-SURGICAL WOUND TREATMENT

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Introduction:

Wound infection after sternotomy is an infrequent (0.5-2%) but dangerous complication of cardio-surgical procedures. It can even be complicated by mediastinitis or cardiac perforation.

We have developed new wound healing system based on combination of hyaluronate with iodine complex - **Hyiodine®**. Hyaluronan modifies inflammatory responses and positively influences wound healing. Moreover, the anti-adhesive effect of hyaluronan is combined with the anti-microbial capability of iodine. The aim of our study was to assess the effect of **Hyiodine®** on treatment of sternal dehiscence in eight patients.

Material and Methods:

Eight patients with wound dehiscence after sternotomy (3 males and 5 females) were treated during the last four years. Infected wounds were dressed with gauze immersed in **Hyiodine®** each day. Patients were treated until wound healing or definitive plastic surgery.



Application of **Hyiodine®** to gauze



Preparation of gauze immersed in **Hyiodine®**



Filling the wound with gauze immersed in **Hyiodine®**

Results:

Hyiodine® treatment led to complete wound healing in all patients. Within 2-3 weeks all wounds were dirt free with granulations. After six weeks, granulation tissue filled major parts of the defects. Complete healing without surgical treatment was apparent in 7 patients. Reconstructive plastic surgery was provided in one patient.

The mean length of treatment was 110.9 ± 77.5 days with median 68.5 days, 1st quartile 54 days, and 3rd quartile 178 days. The longest treatment (320 days) was apparent in patients whose sternal dehiscence was complicated by rupture of the right cardiac chamber.

No side effect or complication was apparent in our group of patient.



Discussion:

To our knowledge, we are the first who used sodium hyaluronate-iodine complex on wound healing. Our experience with this treatment has been for more than 4 years. We hypothesize that the healing effect of the complex is related to the activation of immune cells, to its angiogenic properties, and to strong affinity of hyaluronate to water together with the anti-microbial effect of iodine.

This study was supported by grant MSM 0021620820 Czech Republic.

