

STATE SPINAL CORD INJURY SERVICE (SSCIS)

Overview of Spinal Cord Injured Patients with Pressure Injuries in 2019-20

A total number of **43** patients with pressure injuries as main and principal diagnosis were managed in SSCIS hospitals (Prince of Wales hospital and Royal North Shore hospital). This was reflected 14% of the overall number of patients discharged in 2019/20 years (n=299). Comparing to the previous year, there was a decrease in the percentage of SCI patients with pressure injuries managed from (17%) to (14%).

Among the patients with pressure injuries as main diagnosis in 2019/20 as follows:

- 60% were unplanned and 40% planned compared to the previous 2018/19 which was 54% unplanned and 46 planned.
- 84% of patients with pressure injuries were male versus 16% female.
- Ratio of paraplegia versus tetraplegia was (58% to 42%) compared to the previous 2018/19 year (68% to 32%)
- Incidence of patients post SCI
 - Patients 21 years or more post SCI remained the highest percentage (58%), followed by 5 years or less (10%),
 - Patients with 11-15) and (16-20) year age groups post SCI had each (12%) each, and
 - (6-10) year age group (2%).
- Ischial Tuberosity pressure injuries remained the major cause of admission (53%), followed by sacral (19%), then greater trochanter (12%) and other location (7%).
- 70% of patients managed surgically (with debridement, flap, primary closure or Split skin graph), and 30% managed with conservative management (dressing, Vac dressing, and antibiotics)
- Overall there were 38 debridement and 13 flaps implemented in 2019/20 year.
- Average LOS was 62 days and median LOS was 38 days with range of 8 to 258 days.

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Number (N^o) of spinal cord injury (SCI) separations from the acute SCI units admitted for the management of pressure injuries

	16/17		17/18		18/19		19/20	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Total Number readmission separations	290		326		337		299	
Total No separations following management of pressure injuries	31	11%	50	15%	57	17%	43	14%
Admission type								
Unplanned	13	42%	31	62%	31	54%	26	60%
Planned	18	58%	19	38%	26	46%	17	40%
Gender								
Female	5	16%	11	22%	7	12%	7	16%
Male	26	84%	39	78%	50	88%	36	84%
Neurological Impairment								
Paraplegia	22	71%	29	58%	39	68%	25	58%
Tetraplegia	9	29%	21	42%	18	32%	18	42%
Age range at admission								
15 - 24 yrs.	0	0%	1	2%	3	5%	1	2%
25 - 34 yrs.	5	16%	8	16%	1	2%	2	5%
35 - 44 yrs.	4	13%	3	6%	8	14%	5	12%
45 - 54 yrs.	8	26%	15	30%	19	33%	12	28%
55 - 64 yrs.	10	32%	8	16%	11	19%	13	30%
65 - 74 yrs.	2	6%	10	20%	10	18%	6	14%
75 - 84 yrs.	2	6%	5	10%	5	9%	4	9%
Time since SCI								
5 yrs. or less	8	26%	6	12%	12	21%	7	16%
6 - 10 yrs.	6	19%	8	16%	7	12%	1	2%
11 - 15 yrs.	2	6%	10	20%	7	12%	5	12%
16 - 20 yrs.	2	6%	2	4%	2	4%	5	12%
21 yrs. And more	13	42%	24	48%	29	51%	25	58%
Pressure injury Management								
Conservative management	8	26%	13	26%	16	28%	13	30%
Surgical procedures	23	74%	37	74%	41	72%	30	70%
Location of pressure injuries								
Ischial Tuberosity	19	61%	27	54%	24	42%	23	53%
Sacral	1	3%	10	20%	9	16%	8	19%
Greater Trochanter	6	19%	3	6%	12	21%	5	12%
Heel	2	6%	2	4%	1	2%	0	0%
Knee	0	0%	2	4%	2	4%	1	2%
Foot	0	0%	1	2%	3	5%	2	5%
Scapular	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%	1	2%
Other	3	10%	3	6%	6	11%	3	7%
Grading of pressure injuries								
Grade 4	21	68%	30	9%	41	12%	30	10%
Grade 3	1	3%	9	3%	8	2%	4	1%
Grade 2	8	26%	3	1%	3	1%	1	0%
Unstageable	0	0%	3	1%	3	1%	1	0%
Other	1	3%	4	1%	2	1%	7	2%

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Type of procedures								
- Debridement	23		63		60		38	
- Flaps	14		27		22		13	
- Split Skin Graft	1		7		2		0	
Length of stay in days								
Average	46		63		60		62	
Median	39		36		32		38	
Minimum	2		1		1		8	
Maximum	188		310		329		258	