

Home care in the treatment of complex wounds: an integrative approach

Atención domiciliaria en el tratamiento de heridas complejas: un enfoque integrador

Atendimento domiciliar no tratamento de feridas complexas: uma abordagem integrativa

Anelvira de Oliveira Florentino¹
ORCID: 0000-0001-8628-0565
Gercilene Cristiane Silveira²
ORCID: 0000-0002-1642-6917
Adriane Lopes²
ORCID: 0000-0001-7221-7012
Ingridy Tayane Gonçalves Pires

Fernandes³
ORCID: 0000-0002-9334-6857
Andréa Cibele Roque⁴
ORCID: 0000-0001-7221-7012
Laís Fernanda da Silva²
ORCID: 0000-0003-3835-2784
Maria Rita Simões Nabi⁵
ORCID: 0000-0002-8596-9931
Elcie Aparecida Braga de Oliveira⁶
ORCID: 0000-0001-6364-0345
Keli Cristina Ferreira²
ORCID: 0000-0003-2049-9585
Laudicéia Rodrigues Crivelaro⁵

¹Centro Universitário Sudoeste Paulista. São Paulo. Brazil.

ORCID: 0000-0001-7077-5678

²Faculdades Integradas de Jaú. São Paulo, Brazil

³Universidade Anhembi-Morumbi. São Paulo. Brazil.

⁴Hospital Unimed Regional Jaú. São Paulo, Brazil.

⁵Universidade Estadual Paulista. São Paulo, Brazil.

⁶Hospital Estadual de Bauru. São Paulo, Brazil.

⁷Centro Universitário São Camilo. São Paulo, Brazil.

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Corresponding author:

Anelvira de Oliveira Florentino E-mail: anelviraflorentino@yahoo.com.br

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de Oliveira

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Introduction: Patients with complex wounds usually go through painful, invasive procedures, hospitalizations, staying away from their routine, their family, losing their personal and social identity. When the patient is discharged with an indication to continue the treatment of the wound at home, it is verified that, in addition to greater adherence to the treatment and the guidelines given by the professional, there is a reduction in healing time, a reduction in the rate of depression and infection, and improvement in quality of life, both for the patient and for family members. With the emergence of telemedicine, a few years ago, it was possible to raise the quality of care by providing care even with the professional attendant over long distances, enabling the professional to better manage care^{1,2}.

Objective: Report the experience of home care in the treatment of complex wounds in person with the help of telemedicine.

Methodology: This is an experience report from July to August 2020.

Results: For better compliance to the treatment proposed by the professional, it is necessary to trust the patient and their families/caregivers³. From the professional and ethical posture, as well as empathically in explaining the reality of the wound, presenting the planning and how it will be carried out, a relationship of trust was established between the parties. When visiting patients twice a week, all the necessary assistance and guidance to family members/caregivers were given. As a complement, a telephone number with an instant message and video application was made available to facilitate communication, considering that complications are possible and home care, in this case, does not deal with emergencies. It was possible to verify that patients felt more welcomed having telemedicine to answer questions on days when there were no face-to-face consultations. A relevant advent for improving the quality of information was the use of videoconferencing, which is an indispensable tool for a more effective service. When asking patients to take photos of the wounds, most of the time the photos did not show the reality of the situation, however, using videoconference, it was possible to reliably assess the wound bed and guide as best as possible.

Discussion: It is emphasized that, in addition to all the benefits mentioned here, face-to-face care with the help of telemedicine provides an integrative approach to care, enabling behavioral and social changes, paradigm shifts and greater proximity between patient/family/caregiver-professional².

Conclusion: It is concluded that telemedicine is a fundamental element to complement home care in the care of complex wounds, cases in which patients are fragile and the face-to-face and virtual are the perfect pair for an integrative care, according to the needs of each one. It is expected that this study will awaken in the academic community and clinical staff of educational and health institutions the relevance of the union of the face-to-face with the virtual in the integrative approach to care for patients with complex wounds, as it is effective.



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