

Management of feet skin breakdown in spinal lipoma patient

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It is well known that Spina Bifida patients are ailed with complications such as walking difficulty, deformity of the feet, sensation loss of the lower extremities, urinary and fecal incontinence. It is further known that reports of skin breakdown of the feet are relatively rare in spinal lipoma patients compared to the open neural tube patients. During the last four years, there were three patients that suffered skin break down on the feet in our institution. Spinal lipoma was the cause of the skin break down for the two amount the three and myelomeningocele was the cause for the remaining one. Case presentation: Case.1 Twelve-year-old girl. Her back lipoma was removed surgically when she was one year old, and was also treated for urinary incontinence by the same surgeon. She had acquired a foot infection on the left little finger and was referred to our institution for further treatment where the decision to amputate the finger was made by the orthopedic surgeon as the infection had reached the bone. She was further referred to us for spinal lipoma and received operation without any complication. She experienced another case of intractable skin breakdown on the right lower feet two years later. Case. 2. Fifteen-year-old girl. She was treated in several different institutions for her urinary incontinence without any surgery for spinal lipoma. Her spinal lipoma was operated on in our institution to prevent further neurological deterioration. As the patient in case one, this girl also had to revisit our institution due to an intractable skin breakdown on the right foot. Discussion: There is no consensus that early prophylactic operation for spinal lipomas have better outcome, yet. We presented two cases here who had long history of urinary incontinence without untethering surgery for spinal lipomas. It seems that the ambulatory was good and the deformity of the lower extremities were mild in those cases. We will discuss the importance of patients' education and the management of spinal lipomas.