## Saving Face

Strategies to reduce skin breakdown during noninvasive ventilation (NIV) for patient care

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#### **Objectives**

- Define the key factors that can lead to mask-related NIV complications
- Define ways to manage and reduce the potential of skin breakdown during NIV
- Provide ways to improve patient care by reducing the potential of skin breakdown
- Discuss best practices for initial patient assessment and documentation
- Offer strategies for providing better patient comfort

#### NIV is the standard of care

"It is no exaggeration to say that NIV has revolutionized the treatment of acute respiratory failure."<sup>1</sup>



**PHILIPS** 

#### **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

CMS classified Stage III and IV pressure ulcers as a preventable Hospital Acquired Condition (HAC)<sup>2</sup>

These are no longer reimbursed by current insurance guidelines<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Epstein, Scott K., M.D. Noninvasive ventilation to shorten the duration of mechanical ventilation; Respiratory Care, January, 2009, Vol. 54 No. 1 <sup>2</sup> Gregoretti. C., Confalonieri, M., Navalesi, P., Squadrone, V., Frigerio, V., Frigerio, P., Beltrame, F., Carbone, G., Conti, G., Gamna, F., Nava, S., Calderini, E., Skrobik, Y., Antonelli, M.Evaluation of patient skin breakdown and comfort with a new face mask for non-invasive ventilation: a multi-center study. Intensive Care Medicine 2002; 28:278-284

# How are pressure injuries impacting your facility?

- Difficult to manage
- Costly
- A cause for litigation

Requires a multidisciplinary approach, from Administration to the bedside clinician.





## What is a pressure injury?

A localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure, or pressure in combination with shear.





#### Mask rotation practices



By rotating mask designs, the pressure points are redistributed to help reduce the potential for skin breakdown



## Polling question







V60

RESPIRONICS

#### Patient Assessment

#### Wound Reduction



#### Incidence of skin breakdown

- Skin breakdown "... even after only a few hours of ventilation, is a frequent complication, ranging from 2-23%"<sup>1</sup>
- "In one study, where patients were continuously ventilated with a face mask for more than 48 hours, this percentage reached 70%"<sup>2</sup>



•<sup>1</sup> Epstein, Scott K., M.D. Noninvasive ventilation to shorten the duration of mechanical ventilation; Respiratory Care, January, 2009, Vol. 54 No. 1 <sup>2</sup> Armour-Burton, T., Field, W., Outlaw, L., Deleon, E.. The Healthy Skin Project: Changing Nursing Practice to Prevent and Treat. Critical Care Nurse, Vol 33, No. 3, June 2013

#### Incidence of skin breakdown

- Localized areas of tissue necrosis
- Develop when soft tissue is compressed between a bony prominence surface for an extended period of time



## Most common on bridge of nose<sup>1</sup>



Extreme cases involve surrounding areas, like over the nose but also on the chin

<sup>1</sup> Epstein, Scott K., M.D. Noninvasive ventilation to shorten the duration of mechanical ventilation; Respiratory Care, January, 2009, Vol. 54 No. 1

### What causes a pressure injury?

#### The primary causes are<sup>3</sup>:

- Shearing forces:
  - Cause stretching, kinking, and tearing in the subcutaneous tissues
  - Lead to deeper tissue necrosis
- Excessive compressive pressure (CP)
  - CP should be < diastolic BP</p>
  - CP should be < capillary BP (32-45 mmHg)</li>

#### Risk increases with<sup>3</sup>:

- Duration of pressure exposure
- Pressure over bony prominences



#### Shearing forces

## Skin anatomy and physiology<sup>4</sup>

- Epidermis
  - The outer layer of skin sheds every 21 days
- Dermis
  - The middle layer of skin contains nerve endings, blood vessels, oil glands, sweat glands
  - collagen and elastin
- Hypodermis
  - The subcutaneous layer of skin; fat and connective tissue that houses larger blood vessels and nerves



## Pressure injury - Stage 1<sup>4</sup>

- Intact skin with non-blanchable redness
- A change in the skin temperature (warm or coolness)
- Tissue consistency has a firm or boggy feel
- Possible patient sensation pain or itching



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#### Pressure injury - Stage 2<sup>4</sup>

- Partial thickness loss of skin involving epidermis and/or dermis
- Presents as a intact or open serum filled blister or shallow crater



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### Pressure injury - Stage 3<sup>4</sup>

- Full thickness tissue loss involving damage to or necrosis of subcutaneous tissue
- May extend down to, but not through, underlying fascia
- Presents as a deep crater which may include undermining or tunneling



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### Pressure injury - Stage 4<sup>4</sup>

- Full thickness tissue loss with extensive destruction
- Exposed bone, muscle or tendon
- Some slough or eschar may be present



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#### Pressure injury - Stage 4<sup>4</sup>





<sup>4</sup> National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) www.npuap.org.

# Risk factors for hospital-acquired pressure ulcers<sup>5</sup> (HAPU)

• Age

- Trauma from friction and shearing forces
- Poor nutrition
- Low blood pressure (low perfusion)
- Extended use of NIV



#### Considerations for mask selection



<sup>6</sup> Squardone, E., Frigerio, P., Fogliati, C., Gregoretti, C., Conti, G., Anonelli, M., Costa, R., Baiardi, P., Navalesi, P. Noninvasive vs invasive ventilation in COPD patients with severe acute respiratory failure. Intensive Care Med (2004) 30: 1303-1310.

### **Clinical considerations**

Clinicians remove and reposition masks many times per day for<sup>7</sup>

- Oral care
- Medication
  administration
- Hydration
- Therapy break





#### Mask design considerations<sup>8</sup>

- Estimated length of use
- Compatibility with NIV device
- Mask safety features
  - Quick release clips
  - Anti-asphyxia valves
- Facial features
  - Skin condition
  - Facial abnormalities
- Elbow / Ventilator compatibility
  - EE
  - SE



### Patient considerations<sup>9</sup>

- Mouth breather
- Claustrophobic
- Level of consciousness
- Cooperation
- Facial structure
- Elbow style
- Size matters



# Choosing the right mask for your patient

- Mask types
- Headgear selection
- Soft, self-sealing cushions
- Anti-asphyxia features





## Polling question





#### Initial assessment



- All patients should be assessed for skin integrity upon admission
- Assessment of risk factors for HAPU should also be determined on admission and prior to NIV initiation
- Assess the patient using the Braden scale
- Relative risk should determine monitoring frequency and prevention strategy



## Polling question





#### Patient assessment



DHIIDS

#### Best practices



#### **Saving Face** Strategies to reduce skin breakdown during NIV for patient care





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• In literature<sup>8</sup>



Noninvasive ventilation masks are associated with pressure injuries under the mask

#### Sampling

## In literature<sup>8</sup>



#### Results

- 20% of patients in the oro-nasal masks developed a pressure injury
- 2% of patients in the full-face masks developed a pressure injury
- Comfort scores significantly lower in the Full-face mask group

#### Conclusion:

Full-Face mask resulted in significantly fewer pressure injuries and was more comfortable for patients.

## • NIV advantages over invasive



#### Application

- Avoid Intubation
  - Patient discomfort
  - Upper airway trauma

#### Ventilator acquired pneumonia (VAP)<sup>9</sup>

- Intubation is associated with GI bleeding
- Less chance of barotrauma
- Decreases work of breathing
  - Improves alveolar ventilation
  - Improves gas exchange
  - Counterbalances intrinsic PEEP
  - Improve patient-ventilator synchrony

Epstein, Scott K., M.D. Noninvasive ventilation to shorten the duration of mechanical ventilation; Respiratory Care, January, 2009, Vol. 54 No. 1 Hess, D. Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation and Ventilation Associated Pneumonia. Respiratory Care, July, 2005, Vol. 50. No. 7924-931

## • NIV advantages over invasive



#### Oral patency

- Preserves efficiency of cough and secretion clearance
- Allow speech, allowing the patient to communicate
- Preserves ability to swallow
- Reduces need for NG
  tube

#### PHILIPS

# Summary - Helping reduce the potential for pressure injuries

- Assess the patient
- Select the proper mask(s) design
- Rotate designs to redistribute pressure points
- Manage mask leak no less than 7 L/min
- Perform skin care and early interventions
- Conduct continuing education



