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EFFECTIVENESS OF TOPICAL APPLICATION OF METRONIDAZOLE IN WOUND ODOUR CONTROL: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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Background and Aims:

Malodorous is one of the main symptoms responsible for changes in the quality of life of the person with a wound. Topical use of metronidazole is evidenced in the literature as a good option in wound odour control. The aim of this systematic literature review is to analyse the evidence of the effectiveness of topical use of metronidazole in reducing or eliminating wound odour.

Methods:

Systematic review of databases of EBSCOhost-Research Databases, PubMed® Central and SciELO, of studies published between January 2014 and May 2019, in English, Portuguese and Spanish. The studies were assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) critical appraisal instruments.

Results:

Only five studies presented methodological quality superior to 50%. A phase III clinical trial and four reviews of the literature were included. Based on the results, topical application of metronidazole is effective in controlling odour in wounds, mainly malignant wounds, with its 0.75% and 0.80% gel formulations being the most commonly used.

Conclusions:

Studies of higher methodological quality are needed in order to measure with more accuracy the effectiveness of topical metronidazole in controlling wound odour.