

Iatrogenic Ulcers

Mohammad Reza Ghassemi ¹

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Rasool Akram Hospital, Tehran, Iran

Corresponding Author: Mohammad Reza Ghassemi, E-mail: mohammadreza.ghassemi@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Iatrogenic ulcers are complications that occur as a result of medical treatment by physicians or other members of the health care team. The causes and severity of iatrogenic injuries vary, but in severe wound cases, consulting a plastic surgeon for wound treatment may be warranted.

Even though the quality of medical and surgical care has improved remarkably over time, iatrogenic injuries that require surgical treatment including injuries caused by cast and elastic bandage pressure, extravasation, and dopamine-induced ischemia still frequently occur.

Until now there has been no systematic long-term analytic study of iatrogenic complications. According to a recent retrospective clinical review on total 196 patients, who were referred to the plastic surgery department for the treatment of iatrogenic injuries, an extravasation injury was the most common iatrogenic complication, followed by splint-induced skin ulceration, dopamine induced necrosis, prefabricated pneumatic walking brace-related wounds and elastic bandage-induced wounds.

Nowadays, with the increasing range of rehabilitation therapy, a significant increase in iatrogenic injuries caused by prefabricated walking braces is noted.

In summary; the awareness of the very common iatrogenic complications and its causes may allow physicians to reduce their occurrence and allow for earlier detection and referral to a plastic surgeon. Early identification of iatrogenic complications will assist plastic surgeons in developing more effective intervention protocols to improve patient care outcomes.