

CLINICAL IMAGE

Iatrogenic skin ulceration following neurological assessment

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A 75 years male presented to the emergency department with a history of headache on frontal region associated with vomiting. On examination, his Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) was E4V2M4. His nutritional status was poor. Computerized tomography angiogram revealed aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage. Clipping of the aneurysm was carried out under general anaesthesia and was transferred to the intensive care unit under mechanical ventilation. Hourly neurological assessment was performed. He was extubated after 2 days of mechanical ventilation with GCS of E4V4M5. On the second day of transfer to step down unit, skin ulceration was noted in the region where the sternal rub was performed for assessment of GCS (Fig. 1). Regular dressing was carried out with subsequent healing of the wound. He was discharged home after 15 days of hospitalization. Rubbing should be gentle with frequent assessment in areas covered by clothing to prevent iatrogenic complications.



Figure 1: Skin ulceration in pre-sternal area.

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ETHICAL APPROVAL

Not applicable.

CONSENT

Written informed consent taken from the patient.

GUARANTOR

Bipin Karki is the nominated guarantor for this clinical image.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.