

Tempur-Med Combi Mattress Replacement Evaluation

Date Evaluation Commenced: January 6th 1997

Patient Sample

Data has been collected retrospectively for a total of 7 patients within one orthopedic ward. A description of the patient population is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Patients Characteristics

Characteristic	Range	Typical Value
age	45 – 82 years	Mean = 68 years
sex	-	4 female, 3 male
waterlow score	11 – 26	median = 17

Nursing Care

The nursing care of all patients was planned by the ward nurses in accordance with guidelines for best practice. Specific data relating to frequency of repositioning is not available.

Data Collection

Data relating to risk of developing pressure sores, skin condition and pressure sore prevention care was collected via the routine information recorded by the ward nurses (i. e. pressure sore incidence monitoring forms, repositioning schedules and nursing care plans). Data was collected for a maximum period of 7 days for each patient.

RESULTS

Skin condition

The skin condition at the start of the evaluation at the key anatomical sites is shown in Table 2 for all patients.

Table 2 – Skin Condition on Entry to Evaluation

	sacrum	ischium	heels	other(specify)
no discolouration	5/7	6/7	3/7	-
blanching erythema	1/7	1/7	2/7	ear – 1/7
non blanching erythema	1/7	0/7	2/7	-

A total of four patients had one or more areas of blanching erythema or worse at the beginning of the evaluation. The waterlow scores for these four patients were higher than for those patients without discolouration.

The skin condition of the patients at the end of the data collection period is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Skin Condition at the end of Data Collection

	sacrum	ischium	heels	other
no discolouration	6/7	6/7	4/7	-
blanching erythema	1/7	1/7	1/7	-
non blanching erythema	0/7	0/7	2/7	-

At the end of the data collection period, 6 patients were observed to have no discolouration at any of the key anatomical sites.

Two patients with an area of blanching erythema at the start of the evaluation showed improvement at the end of the data collection period (i. e. no discolouration was observed at the key anatomical sites)

One patient with an area of blanching redness on entry to the evaluation showed no change at the end of the data collection period.

No patients were noted to have a persistent deterioration in their skin condition at any of the key anatomical sites.

Patient Mobility

Three of the patients were considered by the ward nurses to be able to alter their own position in bed. The three remaining patients were considered to require assistance with repositioning.

Waterlow scores

The median and range of waterlow scores for the patients is shown in Table4 by skin condition at the end of the evaluation.

	range	median
No discolouration – n = 6	11-19	14
Blanching – n = 1	26	26

GENERAL COMMENTS

The following points were observed during the evaluation of the Combi Mattress Replacement.

- 1- The fact that the product is maintenance free is desirable feature – mattress remains on the bed which resolves the problem of parts of electrical pressure sore prevention systems going missing
- 2-Since product remains on the bed, “wastage” (i. e. products sitting in cupboards unused)is likely to be prevented.
- 3-Length of warranty is excellent (8 years)
- 4-Within orthopaedics, staff felt that the use of foam as a substitute for air (APAM or LAL beds) meant that patients were able to maintain / regain their mobility better.
- 5-The mattress was felt to be very comfortable by the patients.
- 6- Cleaning of the mattress easy.
- 7- Colour of the cover made the mattress easily identifiable.
- 8-Depth of mattress (6”) made it unsuitable for some of the beds within the ward (i. e. made the bed too high for the patient to transfer safely).