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Comprehensive Review on Diabetic Foot Ulcer – A Brief Guide to Pharmacists

A.Porselvi, M.S. Uma Shankar*, K.S. Lakshmi, A.Bharath Kumar

Department of Pharmacy Practice, SRM College of Pharmacy, SRM University, Kattankulathur- 603203, India

Abstract:Diabetic foot ulcers are common among diabetes patients, have a long term impact on the morbidity, mortality and quality of patients lives. The pathogenesis of foot ulcer is multi factorial and management requires early assessment in a multidisciplinary set up. Interventions should be directed at infection, peripheral ischemia, and abnormal pressure loading caused by peripheral neuropathy and limited joint mobility. Without early and optimal intervention, the wound can rapidly deteriorate leading to amputation of the affected limb. Multidisciplinary management programs that focus on prevention, education, regular foot examinations, aggressive intervention, and optimal use of therapeutic footwear have demonstrated significant reductions in the Incidence of lower extremity amputations. Pharmacists play a key role in education, medication, monitoring, and motivational support for people with diabetes and its complications. This article provides a comprehensive review of the epidemiology, pathophysiology, treatment modalities and information on prevention of diabetic foot ulcers for Community, Hospital, Clinical and Student Pharmacists. Enhancing pharmacist's knowledge can influence in positive health outcomes as there are strong evidence that patient counseling can improve patient compliance and quality of life in diabetes population. Pharmacists can utilize their clinical expertise in monitoring and managing diabetic foot ulcer plans to empower patients to actively manage their health. Pharmacists can serve as a resource to other health care providers to implement an assured safe, appropriate, costeffective diabetic foot ulcer management.

Key words: Diabetes, diabetic foot ulcer, wounds, antimicrobials, amputation, clinical pharmacy intervention.

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