



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety Information

No.17, April 2008

Burn during use of a hot water bottle

Six cases of burn injury when using a hot water bottle during "Nursing care" have been reported (information collection period, from January 1, 2006 to February 29, 2008; the information is partly included in "Medical Adverse Event Information to Be Shared" in the 10th Quarterly Report).

Cases on burn due to a hot water bottle in contact with the body have been reported.

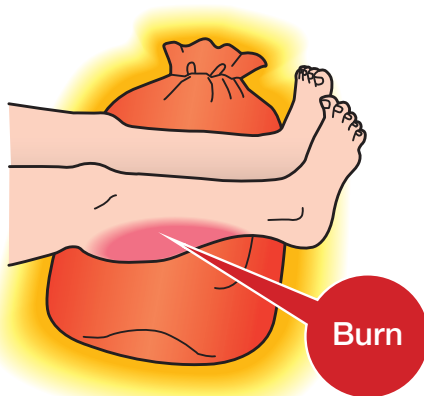
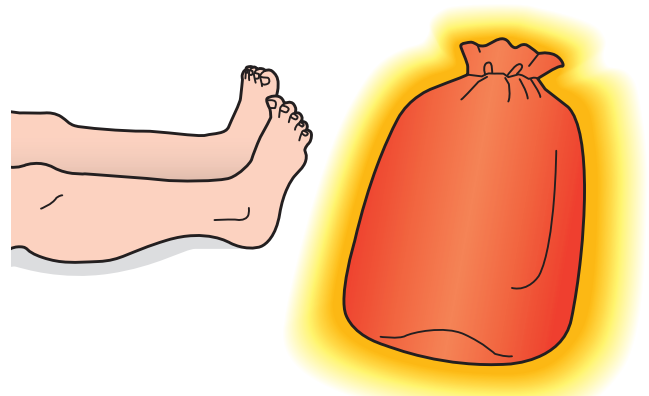


Image of case 1



A image of preventive measure
taken by medical institutions

Burn during use of a hot water bottle

Case 1

Nurse A prepared a 60°C hot water bottle because the lower body of the patient felt cold, and place the bottle on both lower thighs. An hour later, Nurse B removed the hot water bottle, because the patient no longer felt cold. Ten hours later, the nurse noticed erosion and effusion on the lower thigh, and determined that burn had occurred. Avoiding direct body contact with the hot water bottle is clearly shown in the nursing practice instruction at the hospital, but this was not thoroughly known among nurses.

Case 2

The patient was kept warm using a hot water bottle. On observing the lower extremities due to patients complains, the hot water bottle was in contact with the inside of left leg. Redness was observed, and epidermal burn was determined.

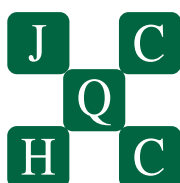
Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred.

- When using hot water bottle, being aware of the risk of burn and low-temperature burn is emphasized.
- When using hot water bottle, keep from being in direct contact with the body.
- Unify the rules regarding hot water bottle, etc. (hot application) within the hospital.

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project. <http://www.med-safe.jp/>

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but can not be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is neither for limiting the discretion of healthcare providers nor for imposing certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



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