

Ultraviolet radiation therapy in wound healing - an orientation paper

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ABSTRACT

In terms of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health the speed and the success of the wound healing process depends on a series of personal factors and environmental factors. New therapeutical approaches are needed regarding wound healing, approaches answering the following requirements: low level of toxicity and reduced risk of side and systemic effects, minimal invasivity, high cost-efficiency.

Objectives: The main objective of this paper is to profile a most complete picture of the utility of ultraviolet therapy in wound care, from nowadays perspectives.

Material and Method: Bibliographic research on the Internet for reviews, journal articles and clinical guidelines regarding recent advances in ultraviolet therapy for wound healing.

Outcomes: The evidence sustaining the benefits of ultraviolet therapy in wound healing comes from a number of animal model experiments and a few clinical studies.

Conclusions: UVA, UVB and UVC seem to act by influencing cell signaling and by inducing changes in the cell metabolism and proliferation (biostimulation), inducing and sustaining wound healing. UVC act also by antibacterial effect. There are some issues to be managed in the future, in order to ensure safe use of UV in wound care.

Key words: ultraviolet therapy, wound healing, wound care

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