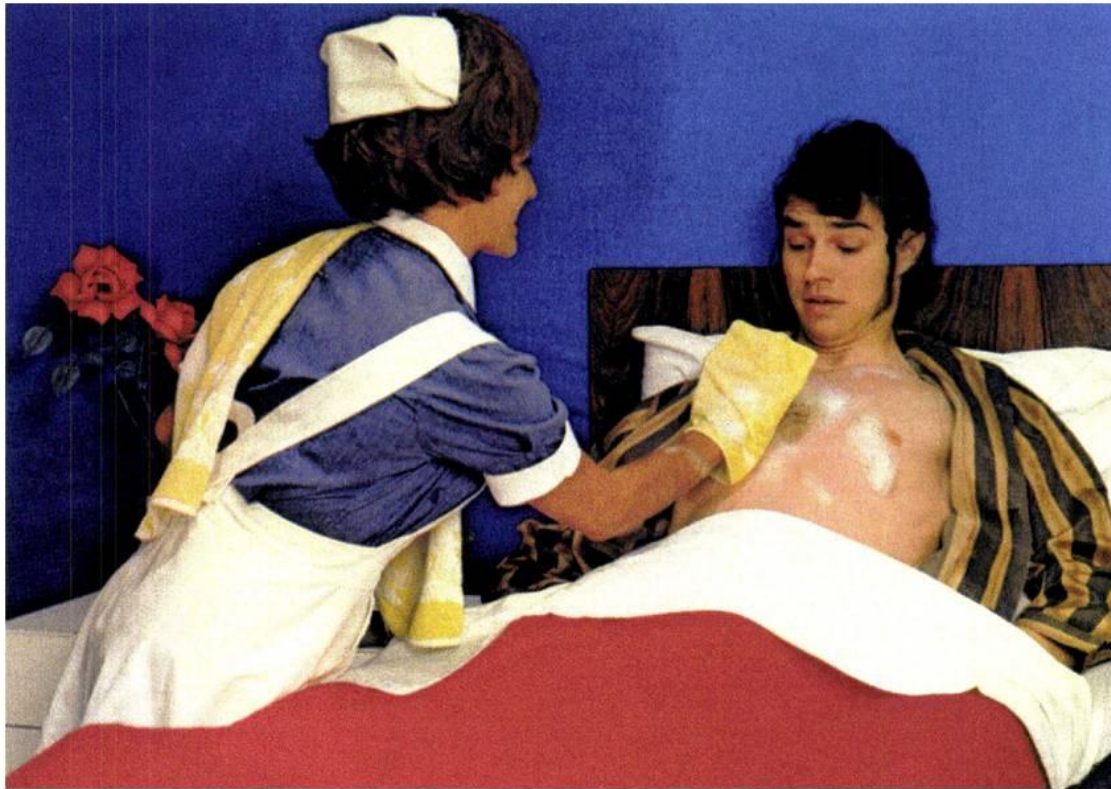


WASHING WITHOUT WATER

Cost-effectiveness of a rapidly spreading nursing
intervention in care-dependent patients

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What if this..



..is replaced by this ?



What do we know about washing with water?

Soap & water baths

- * care standard for centuries
- * acceptable for patients and nurses
- * some reports of bathing leading to dry skin and decreased skin barrier function

e.g. Korting et al. Clin Dermatol 1996;13:23-27. /

Grunewald et al. Cont Dermatitit 1995;32:225-232. / Voegeli. JWOCN 2008;35:84-90.

What do we know about washing without water?

Disposable wash gloves, made of non-woven material, saturated with quickly vaporizing cleaning & caring lotions

- * lacking evidence for skin effects
- * some positive reports for time & cost savings, ergonomics for nurses, agitation in dementia
- * only two small, limited comparative studies

Larson et al. J Crit Care 2004;13:235-241. / Sheppard & Benner. Gerontol Nursing 200;26:36-45. /

Dilemmas with Washing Without Water

Some just think it is a shame
Others think the world of it

Effects on patients not clear;
can we trust claims of the industry?

Will likely save time & money, but where will it go?

Will it not reduce highly valued nurse-patient contact?



Our study

AIMS

- To compare skin damage for TB & WWW*
- To evaluate patients' and nurses' experiences with WWW
- To compare costs of TB and WWW

TB: Traditional Bathing

WWW: Washing Without Water



Our study

56 Nursing home wards

BASELINE



RANDOMISATION

Traditional bathing

Washing Without Water

Follow-up week 1
Follow-up week 2
Follow-up week 3
Follow-up week 4
Follow-up week 5
Follow-up week 6

**skin
integrity**
*

Follow-up week 1
Follow-up week 2
Follow-up week 3
Follow-up week 4
Follow-up week 5
Follow-up week 6

Our study

Intervention

Washing without water, using product selected from pilot
Instructions at wards at the start of the intervention period

Care as usual

Soap and water bathing, drying with towels

Study participants

All nursing home residents requiring bathing by nurses
In bath or shower ≤ 1 day/week

Our study

Skin damage

Skin observations for skin damage (intertrigo, dermatitis, erythema..)
- 500 residents

Satisfaction

Questionnaire for nurses and residents in intervention group
- 175 nurses; 55 residents

Costs

Observation of use of materials and time needed for bathing
- materials for 3150 occasions; time for 435 occasions

ANALYSES

Skin damage

3-level logistic model for repeated measurement of skin damage occurrence, taking clustering of data in institutions, wards and within patients into account

Satisfaction

Descriptive statistics

Costs

Prices calculated from volumes x cost estimates

Extrapolated to yearly costs; compared for the two conditions

FIRST RESULTS

Skin damage

- 70% skin damage in both groups at baseline
- small but statistically significant protective effect of WWW
[OR=0.48]



FIRST RESULTS

Satisfaction

- over 80% of residents felt clean and refreshed after WWW
- residents were equally positive about their skin conditions and the scent of the product

- around 80% of nurses believe clients are clean after WWW
- over 60% of nurses think WWW would be acceptable standard care, though most believe traditional bathing should always remain possible

FIRST RESULTS

Costs

- Small but statistically significant difference in favour of WWW
- WWW saves around 200 Euros per resident per year



Discussion

- Definition and prevalence of skin damage (all inclusive in our study)
- Effective through what mechanism exactly?
- Results valid for institutional elderly care
- Results might differ where products are very different

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Washing Without Water is safe

Washing Without Water is cost-effective,
though differences are small

Considering product quality can be
important when introducing Washing
Without Water

Monitoring of long-term outcomes is
advised

