EPIDERMIC GROWTH FACTOR, A NEW TOOL IN HEALING DIABETIC FOOT COMPLICATIONS

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Introduction: Recombinant human epidermal growth factor (EGF) is a polypeptide of 53 amino acids and 56 KD. It is obtained by recombinant DNA technology, by inserting the human EGF gene of Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Injected into bottom and edges of ulcers stimulating tyrosin kinase receptors causing a cascade of events that lead to increased migration of fibroblasts, myofibroblasts, keratinocytes, collagen formation and fibronectin, re-epithelialization and neovascularization. It has proven useful in diabetic foot ulcers, allowing secondary intention closure. It is indicated for diabetic foot ulcers grade 3 and 4 of the Wagner and a greater area of 1 cm. Objective: To determine the effectiveness of treatment with the growth factor in diabetic foot lesions in both evolution and healing time of the same. Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional, descriptive, observational study. The sample consisted of 120 patients with a foot injury grade III-IV-V as rated by Wagner. EGF was administered according to protocol. Results: Of the patients, 5% required major amputation, the remaining 95% developed granulation tissue in a period of 2 weeks and the healing was 8 to 12 weeks on average. As some patients had adverse effects chills and dizziness. Conclusion: We can conclude that the use of this new tool is very effective in the difficult and arduous task that is the healing diabetic foot compared with other interventions, with a lower incidence of amputation.