

LATE SEQUELAE OF WAR WOUNDS IN OUR GERIATRIC POPULATION

World War II Through Vietnam



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DISCLOSURE

Dr. Bongiovanni discloses that she has no financial or personal benefit relationship with any medical products distributor or manufacturer.



World War II

Many of the veterans of World War II are now late octo- and nonogenerians. Many are still experiencing the results of burns, gunshot wounds, explosion injuries, shrapnel and blade wounds sustained over 70 years ago.

Today, many of these wounds can be improved and some can be healed.



World War II, continued

96 y/o inactive Marine was shot seven times while fighting in the Solomon Islands. All but one of the wounds healed. A wound to his left heel did not close despite multiple surgical attempts to achieve healing. Throughout this man's life, his left heel drained foul material and caused varying levels of pain.



World War II, continued



World War II, continued

- 92 y/o infantryman was injured in the Battle of Salerno, Italy. His leg injury was treated on the battlefield and he was returned to duty 8 days later. Throughout his life, this wound was irregularly recurrent. When open, the wound was heavily exudative, painful and foul. We treated this wound with multiple daily flushes with HOCl solution.



World War II, continued

1/4/2015



3/18/2015



World War II, continued

- 92 y/o airman was shot down over Germany in the winter of 1942. He required amputation secondary to compound fracture and freezing. The man wore a series of prostheses until he was 89 y/o when the stump began to break down. Wound care with HOCl and surgical revision of underlying bone provided complete healing.



World War II, continued

5/6/2016



8/1/2016



Korea

- 77 y/o man had been burned in childhood and burned again during the Korean war. Multiple skin grafts never healed and this man was wrapping his leg daily. Throughout the intervening 50 years, the chronic wounds acquired multiple infections that responded poorly to antibiotics. We treated these wounds aggressively (TID) with HOCl solution.

Korea, continued

10/7/14



7/17/16



Korea, continued

- The next slide depicts a variety of late effects of the profound frostbite and freezing experienced by many who fought in Korea.
- All of these patients required amputation.



Korea, continued



Korea, continued



Vietnam



Vietnam, continued



What We Have Learned

- Ask every patient if he/she is a veteran
- Ask every veteran where and when he/she served
- Ask every veteran if he/she was injured in any way while serving
- Ask every veteran if he/she was exposed to gasses, poisons, Agent Orange, napalm, etc.



What We Have Learned, continued

- Ask every veteran for any details of treatment: battlefield, place where injury occurred, subsequent treatment(s) throughout lifetime
- Ask every veteran for POW status including where/when/duration

Be sure to thank every veteran at every appointment

