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Slight improvement of the effectiveness in treating cleft lip scars with silicone gel versus silicone sheet: A secondary analysis

Qiaowan Lee¹ and Yensheng Wang^{2,3}

¹Taipei City Hospital, Taiwan

²Yale University School of Public Health, USA

³Chang-gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan

Introduction: Silicone sheet is often used for preventing cleft lip scar postoperatively with concerns of ingestion, application site irritation and short application time. Silicone gel has day-long application duration with better safety. Previous study suggested no difference between forms of silicone in treating cleft lip scarring without controlling potential confounders. We aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of silicone gel versus sheet in a different model, controlling surgical gap, side and patient effects.

Method: Data was retrieved from previous study with additional information from the author. In short, silicone gel/sheets were randomly assigned to the patients. Clinical scar evaluation scores (VSS, VAS, width) were measured 6 month after application. Transformation was performed for normalization and direction purpose. Generalized linear model was performed controlling the measurement, age, gap and patient effects with Tukey's adjustment. Sensitivity analysis was performed to compare the result.

Result: There are 29 observations in sheet group with mean VSS 0.46 (SD 0.11), mean 10/VAS 1.42 (SD 1.20) and mean width 2.75 (SD 1.44). There are 26 observations in gel group, with mean VSS 0.41 (SD 0.13), mean 10/VAS 1.35 (SD 0.18) and mean width 2.06 (SD 1.71). Silicone gel had a lower score compared to sheet after tukey's adjustment. ($p=0.0048$, 95CI: 0.05, 0.26). Sensitivity analysis showed a similar result.

Conclusion: Silicone gel appeared to slightly improve post-operative cleft lip scars compared to silicon sheet. With the advantage of safety and patient-friendly features, silicon gel could be recommended for postoperative care of cleft lip scars in infants.

Speaker Biography

Qiaowan Lee has completed her MD at Chang-gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan in 2015. She devoted to clinical studies that discover potential treatments for surgical wounds. Qiaowan is currently a resident doctor at Taipei City Hospital, Taiwan.

e: DAZ06@tpech.gov.tw



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