

LARVAL THERAPY: POSSIBILITY OF ADHERENCE TO THE TECHNIQUE BY PATIENTS WITH CRONICAL WOUNDS

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The application of sterile fly larvae to hard-to-heal wounds, with the aim of promoting biological debridement and disinfection, is known as Larval Therapy (LT). Although this technique has been known for centuries and is regularly used in the United States and European countries, in Brazil, the first application of LT was only performed in 2012 at the University Hospital of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte.

The aim of this study was to analyze the knowledge and possibility of adherence to the LT technique by patients with chronic wounds in the city of Maceió, Alagoas.

This is a descriptive qualitative and quantitative study conducted at the Salgadinho Medical Care Center, a reference center for the treatment of chronic wounds located in Maceió, Alagoas. The study was submitted to and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the State University of Health Sciences of Alagoas, under CAAE 71110423.0.0000.5011. For data collection, questionnaires were applied, and medical records of patients undergoing treatment for chronic wounds were analyzed. After administering the questionnaire, patients received clarification about how LT works and its benefits. Doubts, as well as whether they accepted the use of LT were recorded.

A total of 24 patients were interviewed. Most patients with chronic wounds (91.27%) were unaware of LT and its mechanism of action. However, if the procedure were available through the Brazilian Unified Health System, 70.83% of patients would be willing to undergo the treatment. The main reasons cited included "health improvement", "better treatment", and "faster wound healing".

These findings highlight the need to promote and implement innovative therapies, such as LT, through official health agencies, so that patients with chronic wounds have an additional treatment option.

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