Effectiveness of fibrin glue in conjunction with collagen patches to reduce seroma formation after axillary lymphadenectomy for breast cancer.

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Abstract:

Background: Axillary lymphadenectomy remains an integral part of breast cancer treatment, yet seroma formation occurs in 15% to 85% of cases. Among methods employed to reduce seroma magnitude and duration, fibrin glue has been proposed in numerous studies, with controversial results. Methods: Fifty patients underwent quadrantectomy or mastectomy with level I/II axillary lymphadenectomy; a suction drain was fitted in all patients. Fibrin glue spray and a collagen patch were applied to the axillary fossa in 25 patients; the other 25 patients were treated conventionally. Results: Suction drainage was removed between postoperative days 3 and 4. Seroma magnitude and duration were significantly reduced (P = .004 and .02, respectively) and there were fewer evacuative punctures in patients receiving fibrin glue and collagen patches compared with the conventional treatment group. Conclusions: Use of fibrin glue with collagen patches does not always prevent seroma formation, but it does reduce seroma magnitude and duration, as well as necessary evacuative punctures.