

Wounds

South Med J. 2002 Feb

Salvage of limb and function in necrotizing fasciitis of the hand: role of hyperbaric oxygen treatment and free muscle flap coverage.

Yuen JC, Feng Z.

Department of Surgery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock 72205, USA.

We report a case of necrotizing fasciitis of the hand treated by urgent debridement followed by serial debridements, hyperbaric oxygen, and delayed free muscle flap coverage. After control of the infection, a major soft-tissue defect remained on the dorsum of the wrist and hand, exposing all extensor tendons. A rectus muscle free flap was used for wound coverage and salvage of the exposed tendons; the muscle flap was covered with a delayed skin graft. The patient regained satisfactory function with ability to extend all digits. This case emphasizes the importance of aggressive debridement and hyperbaric oxygen treatment and shows the valuable role of free muscle flap wound coverage for preservation of function in cases of necrotizing fasciitis of the hand.

PMID: 11846256 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]