

## Natural History of Wounds in Patients with Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa

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Understanding the natural history of wounds in patients with recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB) is essential for assessing efficacy of clinical trials. A cross-sectional study, utilizing patient questionnaires to evaluate chronic open wounds, defined as areas unhealed for  $\geq 12$  weeks and recurrent wounds, defined as areas that heal but easily open. A total of 1463 wounds were characterized in 128 RDEB patients; 52% pediatric, 51% male; 39% (155/393) of chronic open wounds were  $\geq 40$  cm<sup>2</sup> and 71% (63/89) remained unhealed for  $\geq 4$  years. In contrast, 92% (954/1033) of recurrent wounds healed in  $\leq 3$  weeks; 93% (101/109) opened again in  $\leq 12$  weeks; 49% (519/1057) of recurrent wounds were  $\geq 20$  cm<sup>2</sup> and 72% (74/103) of recurrent wounds were present for  $\geq 4$  years. On multivariate regression analysis, patients with anemia were 2.9 fold more likely to have larger recurrent wounds [odds ratio (OR) 2.89, 95% CI (1.01-8.26), P = 0.047]. Limitations include selection bias and recall bias. Chronic open wounds and recurrent wounds in RDEB patients are associated with significant morbidity and protracted time course.<sup>1-3</sup> This natural history study sets a baseline from which to assess wound healing in future prospective clinical studies.

### References

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