

# Keeping Skin in The Game: Bringing Awareness to Neonatal Skin Injuries

Media Esser MSN, NNP-BC, APNP, PhD (c), Christine Schindler PhD, CPNP,  
Pat Clinton PhD, ARNP, FAANP, FAAN



### Background

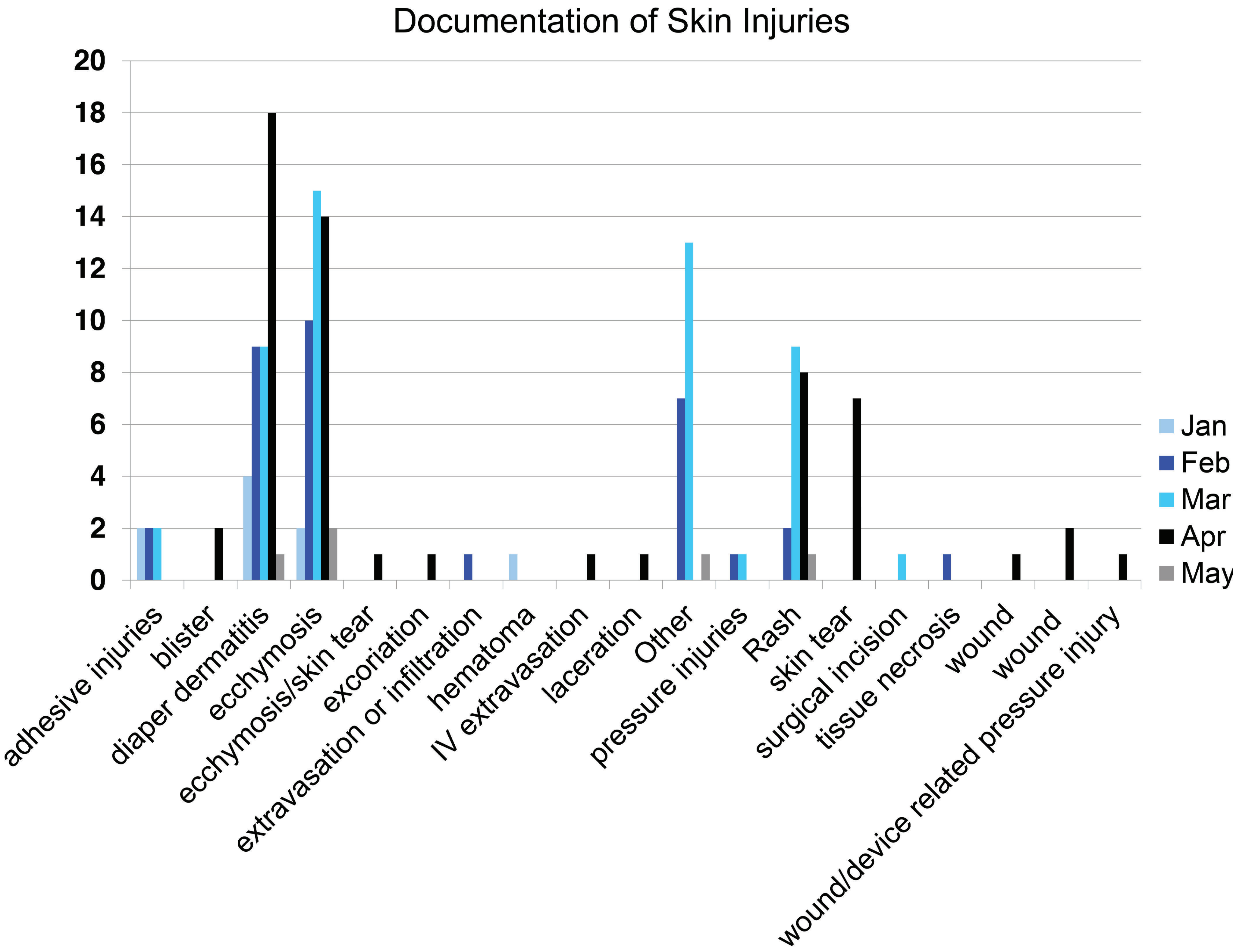
- Skin injury is a significant problem in the neonatal population.
- The most common skin injuries found in the neonatal population are:
  - Skin tears
  - IV infiltrates
  - Device related injury
  - Diaper dermatitis
  - Irritant and contact dermatitis
  - Adhesive injuries
- Every neonate is considered high risk and many preventative measures are performed with daily care.
- As many as 4% of patients are discharged from the NICU with significant scarring.
- Rates of unintentional skin injury in lower gestational age infants can be as high as 57% as compared to 3% in their term gestational age counterparts.

### Purpose

- Enhance awareness of neonatal skin injuries.
- To perform a QI project gathering skin injury data within a level 4 NICU.
- Characterize most common types of injuries.
- Assess and compare descriptions of injuries within documentation before and after activities.
- Discover need for further work and education.

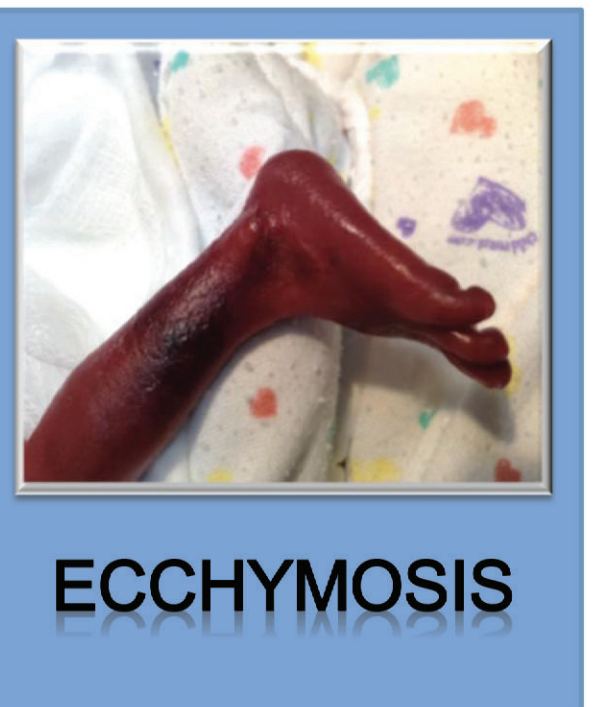
### Acknowledgements

Thank you to all children's Hospital of Wisconsin NICU nurses and staff for your support and Martha Evans for help with data organization.

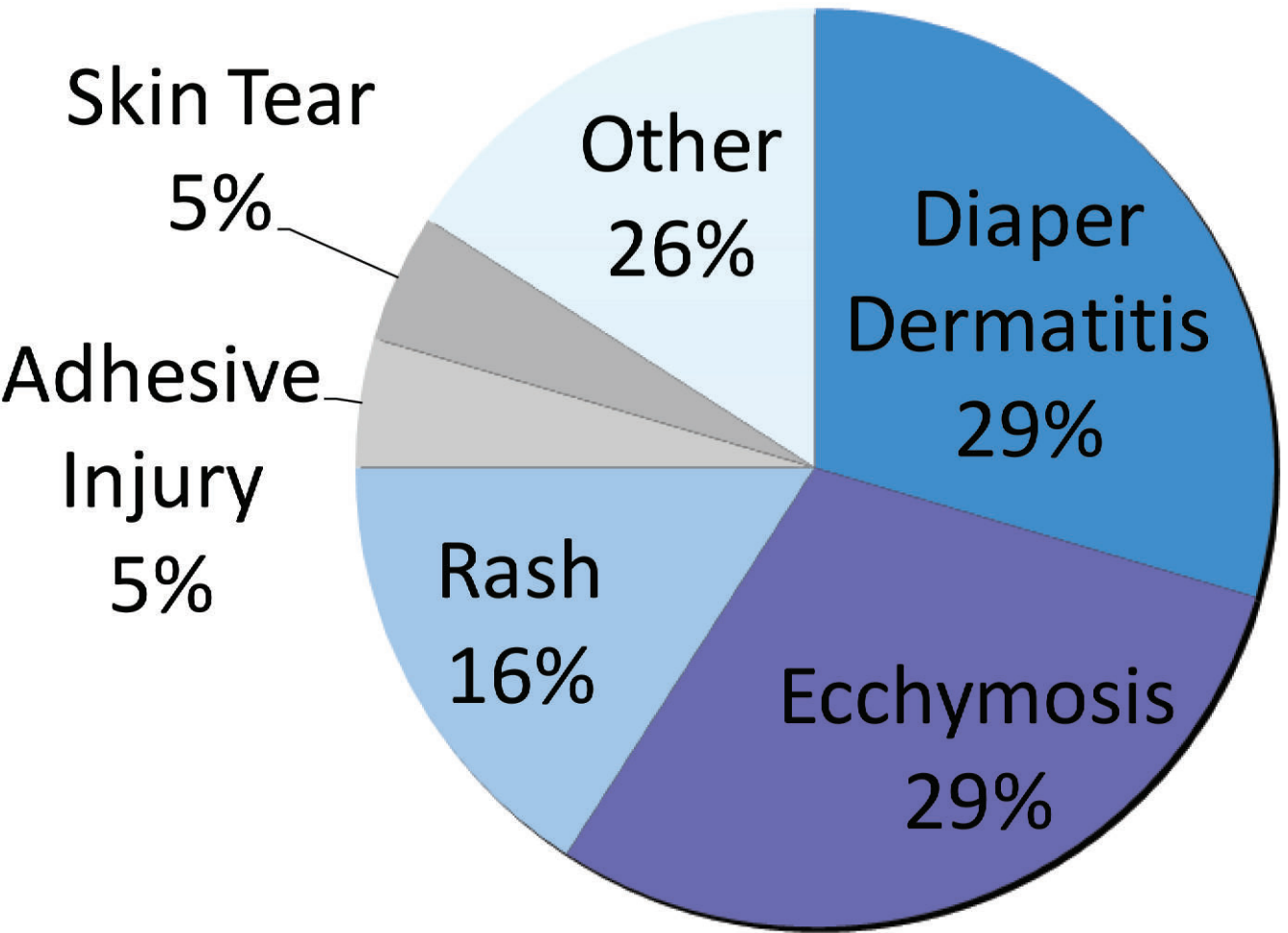


### Outcomes

- Documentation analysis revealed inconsistent descriptions.
- High ecchymosis rate speculated to be related to birth process and other procedures.
- Unexpected elevated rate of diaper dermatitis
- Demonstrated the need for ongoing education
- No pressure ulcers



### Characterized Skin Injuries January- April 2015



### Methods/Project Activities

- Representatives from Nursing, Medicine, and Administration joined in the implementation efforts
- Creation of ongoing data collection for QI from selected metrics of documentation
- Diaper dermatitis algorithm published in resident handbook for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Staff education on skin care policy revisions
- Neonatal Skin Care Visiting Scholar Presentation
- Continued NICU presence at skin-related hospital-wide committee meetings
- Skin and Wound CNS position implemented
- Monthly meetings to discuss data, skin care practices, and quality improvement strategies
- Weekly skin rounds

### Leadership Journey

“The 5 practices of the KP Model of leadership (**Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, and Encourage the Heart**) helped create numerous meaningful experiences that have led to the generation of a stronger awareness surrounding neonatal skin care”  
**(Fellow)**

28 physicians benefitted from this project

191 nurses benefitted from this project.

102 female children ages 0-5 benefitted from this project

135 male children ages 0-5 benefitted from this project

### Future Considerations

- Examine outcomes for preventable causes
- Examine relationships to sentinel events and incident reporting
- Poster presentations at national conference
- Develop NICU skin team to tackle:
  - Education and support of injuries
  - Policy development and product evaluation
  - Continuous QI activities



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