Spots and Rashes: Can You Spot Disseminated Herpes Zoster?

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**Purpose**
The goal of this project was to improve the recognition of disseminated herpes zoster presentations.

**Participants**
All ED RN’s, ED Physicians
Infection Preventionists

**Relevance/Significance**
Staff needed to be competent in the care of patients with syndromes of varicella.

**Design**
Staff Development Project

**Setting**
Teaching, urban emergency department with 61,000 visits

**Methods**
Root cause analysis revealed knowledge deficit among staff.

Since the triage greeter does not obtain a medication list or do a full head to toe assessment to identify disseminated herpes zoster, the first step was to mask every rash until secondary triage could be completed.

**Results/Outcomes**

![Pie chart showing pre-education vs. post-education results]

Only 9.4% (8/85) answered all 10 questions correctly on the pre-test.

Post education, 97.6% (83/85) answered all questions correctly. Two were remediated.

During the 10/14-12/14, four presentations were correctly identified.

**Implications**
Nursing staff need to have an understanding of varicella, herpes zoster, herpes zoster in immunocompromised host, disseminated herpes zoster and precautions needed.

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