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Citation: Chinnock, B., et al. Irrigation of Cutaneous Abscesses Does Not Improve Treatment Success. *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 67 (3): 379, March 2016.

Clinical Question: Does irrigation matter in I/D of cutaneous abscesses?

Introduction: The investigators analyzed whether irrigation of abscess cavities helped decrease the complication and recurrence rate after I/D in the ED.

Methods: The authors created a prospective randomized study at their single ED where 193 patients who presented to their center underwent I/D of their uncomplicated cutaneous abscesses with the studied intervention being irrigation or no irrigation. Method and amount of irrigation were not standardized and the outcomes were 30 bounceback, need for further drainage or other interventions, etc. The primary outcome examined by the investigators was the need for further intervention during the 30 day followup period.

Results: Data for 187 of the 193 patients was available. The patients had some minor baseline differences in management (some had packing, different levels of irrigation, prescription of antibiotics) but the outcomes were statistically similar for the irrigation and non-irrigation group. Secondary outcomes were also similar.

Discussion: This study shows that irrigation provides no advantage in the management of relatively uncomplicated, simple cutaneous abscesses.
