VACUUM ASSISTED CLOSURE™ THERAPY
SCIENCE & PRACTICE

A PRACTICAL RESOURCE FOR CLINICIANS

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The rapid increase in the use of vacuum assisted closure (V.A.C.*) therapy in recent years has benefited many patients. For the clinician, it substantially broadens the scope of management options available and offers better possibilities for treating complex wounds.

It is therefore with pleasure, that we present Vacuum Assisted Closure™ Therapy: science & practice, a new educational resource that provides clear, practical information on the use of this therapy for clinicians involved in the care of patients with challenging wounds.

Vacuum assisted closure is the application of negative pressure to the wound surface. Recent research, indicates that V.A.C. therapy may facilitate wound healing by directly stimulating cell growth, increasing local blood perfusion, reducing localised oedema, promoting granulation tissue formation, reducing substances that can inhibit healing, and providing a closed wound environment (see section: Pressure Ulcers).

In view of the complexity of wound healing, our aim has been to look in detail at the role of vacuum assisted closure in specific wound types, using individual, pullout sections, which can be inserted into this file. The first section, for example, focuses on pressure ulcers and has been divided into three parts, recognising that V.A.C. therapy is an important but not exclusive component in the overall management.

It should be acknowledged that vacuum assisted closure has a number of potential roles in the management of pressure ulcers. Almost certainly it has a role in the conservative management where these wounds are complex and deep. However, an increasing number of appropriately selected patients with pressure ulcers are undergoing surgical intervention to close their wounds and V.A.C. has a role in patients who require comprehensive care to optimise outcome.

The section on pressure ulcers also highlights a number of practical considerations that are required if this therapy is to be used to its maximal effect. Similarly, all future sections on specific wound types will include details on the preparation of the wound in the form of adequate debridement, accurate and appropriate application of the therapy system, together with careful monitoring and ongoing management of the underlying aetiology and patient co-morbidities.

Research knowledge in this area continues to increase rapidly and the information presented reports the state-of-the-art situation with up-to-date references. This resource file, when used in association with the current V.A.C.™ Therapy Clinical Guidelines booklet, will provide clinicians with a complete educational resource. It is intended to be informative and offer readily accessible information for the busy practitioner. It is aimed at a multidisciplinary, multinational audience and is an essential guide to practice.

This timely initiative has an eminent, international and multidisciplinary editorial board. We would like to thank the following for their contribution:

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This publication focuses on the integrated system of the vacuum assisted closure (V.A.C.® Therapy™) technique and is intended for use with the current V.A.C.® Therapy™ Clinical Guidelines, © KCI Licensing, Inc.