



WELCOME

The Education Advisory Group is overseeing the newsletter. We have some topics for the year however these are flexible so please let us know what you would like to see or contribute to the 'Tissue Issue' this year. Previous editions [click here](#)

Inside this Issue

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FOCUS TOPIC - NEGATIVE PRESSURE

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) promotes wound healing by delivering negative pressure (a vacuum) to the wound bed through an occlusive dressing. NPWT is an advanced wound therapy that applies sub-atmospheric pressure to a wound to stimulate healing and closure. Negative pressure can be achieved by transferring gas molecules away from the area of interest (wound site) with, for example, a suction pump. The wound is covered with either open-weave gauze or foam, and the entire area is covered with a transparent film dressing. Fluid is drawn from the wound through the foam/ gauze via a tube into a reservoir for disposal.

NPWT Promotes:

- The NPWT promotes new tissue growth (granulation tissue) at a cellular level by stretching the cells to encourage them to split and multiply quicker than a standard wound dressing.
- Removes the material (exudate) from the surface of the wound into the dressing or through tubing to a canister.
- Decreases oedema in the periwound and reduces 3rd space leakage

- Draws the wound edges together to promote and assist in closure
- Promotes vascularisation and perfusion to the wound surface.

There are many different types of NPWT being developed in a very competitive environment. Latest technology involves disposable devices that deliver an assortment of pressures to the wound bed. But have the advantage that these are smaller and able to be carried in a bag or pocket.

NPWT is a popular choice amongst clinicians when compared to conventional wound therapy it is proven to provide:

- Better healing of split skin grafts resulting in decreased hospital stays
- Fewer wound infections in high risk and orthopaedic trauma and open fracture patients
- Better wound healing, shorter length of hospital stay and lower hospital mortality in patients with mediastinitis and stalled or slow wound healing.
- Better wound healing in patients with Diabetes Mellitus and gangrene that necessitates amputation.

Contraindications for NPWT use are:

- Malignancy in the wound - can be used in Palliative care for symptom control such as exudate management and to reduce dressing changes.
- Untreated osteomyelitis
- Non-enteric and unexplored fistulas
- Necrotic tissue with eschar present
- Exposed blood vessels, anastomotic sites, direct foam contact with organs and nerves in the periwound area.

Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) can be used on a range of wounds, both acute and chronic. The therapy has also had success in the area of prevention. In particular- dehiscence of incision lines when used prophylactically on high risk patients in abdominal and obstetric surgery.

HOT TIPS

In high exuding wounds advise to use foam at a higher negative pressure (-120mmHg) to help drain the wound faster (compared to gauze) and to help maintain a seal.

NZWCS Website News

Just to update you on what we have been working on for the NZWCS website.

- The on-line joining and membership renewals is going well. We have had a few hiccups but they have been ironed out now.

- Under 'Resources' 'STOP PI Day' we have the, free to download, Patient Leaflet available in 5 languages (English, Maori, Samoan, Hindi & Chinese).
- Under 'Resources' & 'Publications' we have the new NZWCS Brochure which is free to download to use as advertising for the Society at any local events.

NZWCS Scholarships

The NZWCS has a new Scholarship & Awards programme. If you are thinking of studying or would like to attend a conference (nationally & internationally) and are looking for funding, please take a look at what the NZWCS has to offer: <https://nzwcs.org.nz/education/scholarships>

What's On

NZWCS Study Day & Seminars for 2018:

Wellington - Evening seminars - 19.00 - 20.30 12th September and 14th November 2018

Please check regularly on the NZ Wound Care Society website as seminars, education evenings and study days will be added as soon as locations, venues, dates & details are known

NZWCS 9th National Conference



Save The Date - 23 - 25 May 2019

The NZWCS 9th National Conference will be held at the Conference Centre in Dunedin.
Watch this space for more details

Member Survey

You should be receiving or have already received a short survey from the NZWCS. We have asked all NZWCS members 5 quick questions and we really want to hear back from every one of you because you matter to us. Please reply and participate in the survey within the next 2 weeks. We will let you have the result once they have all been collated.
Thank you

PLANNED FUTURE TOPICS FOR TISSUE ISSUE 2018

- Aug / Sept - Aged Skin
- Oct / Nov - Pressure Injuries

We encourage members to write articles that can be published in Tissue Issue. You will have the opportunity to win \$100 for your work.

To contact the New Zealand Wound Care Society please email administrator@nzwcs.org.nz
Email all contributions to future newsletters 2 weeks before issue release.
More in-depth information is available on www.nzwcs.org.nz

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by the New Zealand Wound Care Society.