

**Patient
Information**

Vacuum Assisted Closure of a wound

Introduction

You have been given this leaflet because it has been suggested that Vacuum Assisted Closure (VAC) therapy may assist the healing of your wound.

What is VAC?

VAC is a medical device which is used for healing an open wound. VAC helps to remove excess fluid from the wound and draw the edges of the wound together.

What does the VAC machine do?

VAC is a specialised form of wound healing treatment that applies a vacuum (suction) to your wound through a sterile piece of foam. The foam is held in place over your wound with a clear adhesive cover. Plastic tubing connects the wound dressing to the VAC machine. The excess fluid from the wound is collected by the VAC into a container. The VAC encourages the growth of healthy tissue. It is also useful in encouraging skin grafts to bond (stick) to a wound.

How long will it take for the therapy to improve my wound?

This depends on the following:

- The size and type of your wound
- Your general health

If you have any questions, please ask your nurse or doctor.

Can I move around while on VAC therapy?

The machine has a battery support so that you can move around during the day without the VAC machine needing to be attached to power socket. If the battery is fully charged you will have 8 hours where you can move around freely.

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Tissue Viability

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You may feel a slight 'sucking' or 'drawing' sensation when VAC therapy is first started. Sometimes the wound can itch as it heals. This is usually a good sign but if it continues or becomes unpleasant please tell your nurse.

How often does the dressing need changing?

The dressing is usually changed every 2 to 3 days. In some cases it may be left for up to 5 days if the consultant decides that this is best for you.

Will it hurt when the dressing is changed?

Some people have discomfort during dressing changes. This can depend on the type and location of the wound. The nursing staff will give you advice on pain relief and will be happy to talk through any concerns you may have.

What happens if the VAC machine's alarm goes off?

Firstly, do not panic. The machine has audio (sound) and visual alarms. These alarms let the nursing staff know if there is a problem and what the problem is, these are usually easily solved.

Let the nursing staff know if you hear or see the alarm.

Contact information

If you are going home with the VAC machine, please ring your district nurses or KCI Medical if there is a problem with the machine.

KCI Medical

Tel: 0800 980 8800

Website: www.kci-medical.co.uk

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