

EVALUATION OF CLINICAL OUTCOME AND COST IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS USING GAUZE BASED NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY

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Aim: To evaluate the clinical effectiveness and cost of gauze based wound filler used to deliver Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) set at -80mmHg in a cohort of patients with varying wound aetiologies.

Methods: Data (including patient demographics, wound dimensions, duration of therapy and cost of consumables) was captured prospectively from patients undergoing NPWT in the PCT in a 3 month period. Analysis was carried out in order to consolidate the data.

Results: 12 patients received NPWT, 5 are ongoing, completed cases N =7. Mean duration of NPWT in the completed cohort = 29 days. The mean reduction in wound volume = 83%. On average dressings were changed twice and the canister changed once a week at a mean cost of £9.10 per patient per treatment day for consumables. The Trust owns devices therefore rental costs of devices have not been calculated. NPWT was discontinued when the wound had progressed sufficiently to be managed with conventional dressings.

Conclusion: Recent publications have suggested NPWT can be successfully delivered irrespective of wound filler and that little is known about the ideal negative pressure setting. In a study of 12 patients treated with gauze based NPWT set at -80mmHg, all wounds decreased significantly in volume, area and depth over the duration of therapy compared to baseline measurements. A Mean wound volume reduction of 83% was observed in the 7 completed patients. We conclude that gauze is effective wound filler with which to deliver NPWT at -80mmHg in the management of complex wounds.