

Management Of Traumatic Wounds

Seung-Han Shin, MD, PhD

Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, South Korea

The goals of traumatic wound care are: to prevent further injury, to save as much tissue as possible, to prevent infection, and to facilitate subsequent treatment. Although wound care should be individualized according to the clinical conditions to achieve these goals, negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT), or vacuum-assisted closure (VAC), can be used versatily for various traumatic wounds. It increases the blood flow levels, increases the rate of granulation tissue formation, and reduces bacterial counts in the tissue. By it an open wound may be turned into a closed system, a wound closure with significant tension may heal well, tissues otherwise would necrotize may be saved, tissues prone to be infected may be protected, and the coverage surgery may be downgraded into a less demanding one. However, in practice NPWT or VAC requires some experience to achieve best outcomes and to avoid its own complications. In this presentation basic principles and clinical applications of NPWT or VAC will be discussed, with various example cases.