

Management Of Chronic Wounds

Seung-Han Shin, MD, PhD

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

Treatment of chronic wound is challenging, as the word “chronic” itself means that the wound is hard to be healed. Although a proper coverage surgery would be the best management of chronic wounds, there are situations in which we have to keep on the wound care, such as poor general condition of the patient or infection. Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT), or vacuum-assisted closure (VAC), can be helpful for the management of chronic wounds in these situations. By its basic mechanisms of fluid removal and mechanical deformation it clears the wound, prevents or treats the infection, reduces the size of the wound, or prepares the wound for a less-demanding coverage surgery. However, in practice NPWT or VAC requires some experience to achieve best outcomes and to avoid its own complications. In this presentation clinical usage of NPWT or VAC for chronic or infected wounds will be discussed, with various example cases.