A Fresh Perspective on Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) is a commonly used adjunctive wound care modality that promotes healing through moisture balance and cell stimulation. Today, physicians, nurses and wound care specialists have more options to realize all the clinical benefits of NPWT while improving performance in cost effectiveness, patient comfort and ease of use with the V1STA portable and EZCARE systems from Smith & Nephew, a global leader in advanced wound management therapy.

The EZCARE and V1STA systems apply localized negative pressure to the wound bed to promote granulation and facilitate healing in difficult-to-close wounds. Unlike most NPWT devices, the EZCARE and the V1STA systems apply lower negative pressure, which is more comfortable for patients.

“Although numerous studies have demonstrated the efficacy of NPWT, it is not always the most appropriate treatment choice,” said Dr. Ian Gordon, MD, PhD, Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California Irvine. “In many cases, it can be used in conjunction with other, less expensive wound care techniques to maximize healing. NPWT has a long history, but we need to have an open mind about finding new ways to optimize its value.”

“I’ve been treating wounds for more than six years and strongly advocate any new developments that will help alleviate patients’ pain,” said Brenda Underwood, LPN, Restorative Care Coordinator for a 140-bed Long Term Care/Rehabilitation Center. “Smith & Nephew’s EZCARE and V1STA devices are easy to use and nurses can quickly learn the simple dressing technique.”

Smith & Nephew is the only company to offer a complete portfolio of advanced wound care products, as well as NPWT, to help support appropriate therapeutic choices across the continuum of wound care. The company is dedicated to helping customers realize all the clinical benefits of NPWT while improving performance in cost effectiveness, patient comfort and ease of use. This includes helping practitioners address perhaps the most critical cost issue relating to NPWT - establishing protocols for selecting the treatment modality most appropriate for the unique requirements of each wound.

The company is supporting the global launch of these products with a comprehensive offering of training and educational services to assist the medical staff in incorporating NPWT into their wound care practices. This included a recent educational conference on its fresh approach to NPWT, which was attended by more than 150 surgeons, physicians, medical directors and nurse practitioners. The event was chaired by Dr. Mark Chariker, MD, FACS, who developed (with Katherine Jeter, EdD, ET) the pioneering Chariker-Jeter method, which was the first documented use of a vacuum dressing in the United States that resulted in improved wound healing.

To help ensure that its NPWT products are readily available in the hospitals throughout the United States, Smith & Nephew has partnered with Universal Hospital Services (UHS), the country’s leading medical equipment lifecycle services company. Smith & Nephew has also formed strong links with other distribution partners to provide access in the long-term care and home care settings.

For more information about Smith & Nephew's Negative Pressure Wound Therapy systems visit www.npwt.com [1].

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