

EXPERIENCES OF A TNP-TECHNIQUE* FOR DELIVERY OF TOPICAL NEGATIVE PRESSURE THERAPY

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Aim: The purpose of this paper is to examine the use of a topical negative pressure (TNP)-technique* as an alternative medium of applying TNP-therapy. The benefits and challenges of this approach will be discussed.

Method: Three TNP delivery systems that utilise the TNP-method* have been compared to the more established foam-based system. This information has been gathered informally through retrospective audit of feedback from 20 clinicians over a period of a year. All cases were managed in a primary care setting.

Results and Discussion: Pain – In a small number of cases the foam adhered to the wound bed causing trauma on removal. However there were no reports of this with the TNP-approach* and clinicians stated that patients experienced a reduction in pain at dressing change when using the TNP-method*. In addition clinicians indicated that patients who had experience of both systems reported a decrease in pain on transfer to the TNP-system* possibly as a result of the lower pressures applied.

Noise – Several clinicians commented that the delivery systems associated with the TNP-technique* were quieter.

Application – clinicians reported the overall application of the TNP-systems* were more straightforward. However there was initially some difficulty in obtaining a seal. Other disadvantages that were highlighted include the education of both patients and clinicians on the use and application of the delivery systems with the TNP-method* and additional support was required.

Conclusion: This is a small retrospective audit which highlights the experiences of a TNP-technique* as an additional approach to the delivery of TNP. Further research into this area is required to substantiate these findings.

* Chariker-Jeter technique