

**HEALING RATES IN PATIENTS RECEIVING NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY (NPWT)**

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**Aim:** NPWT is an advanced treatment shown to be successful in promoting wound healing. Utilizing such advance treatment may help prevent comorbidities and higher mortality rate associated with chronic wounds. Previously, a study applying foam-based NPWT systems in a variety of wound types and locations evaluated the efficacy of such systems in healing wounds. In our study, a similar form of wound healing evaluation is applied on patients with wounds treated with a novel proprietary gauze-based NPWT system. An ongoing debate regarding the optimal dressing interface used in NPWT (i.e. foam versus gauze-based dressings) continues. Therefore, this study may help to further clarify the issue.

**Methods:** Retrospective analysis of archival data from wounds of 55 patients treated with a gauze-based NPWT system was subjected to data quality assessment, then statistical analysis. Collated data regarding the age, location, type, and size of the wound was used. Standard wound measurements were assessed prior to the initiation of NPWT and again at the discontinuation of NPWT. Wound-healing rates were compared to data taken from a previous NPWT clinical study.

**Results and Conclusion:** Results indicate gauze-based NPWT to be an excellent adjunct in the healing of wounds. On average, wounds were approximately 69.3% of their initial areas and 35.3% of their initial volumes. Healing rates appears to be faster hen compared to previous clinical data. The current study as well as other studies employing similar gauze-based NPWT systems suggests these systems to be as effective i accelerating wound healing as foam-based NPWT systems.