

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

ABOUT

**NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY
(NPWT)**

This information is available in other formats on request. Please ask your nursing staff to arrange this.

Introduction

This leaflet aims to explain how Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) works and why it has been chosen to help heal your wound.

What is NPWT?

The dressing is applied to the wound bed and a transparent film applied over the top of the dressed wound. The dressing is then attached to the NPWT device, which draws excess fluid from the wound and collects this in the attached canister. It may also improve blood flow to the wound which will help it to heal.

It is now being widely used in both hospitals and patients' homes.

How long will it take to improve my wound?

The length of time that therapy takes to improve a wound is different for every patient. It will depend on your general condition, the size and type of wound that you have, and the treatment you have been prescribed. In many cases, an improvement in the wound can be seen when the first dressing is changed, but in some cases, it may take several weeks.

On rare occasions the therapy may be used to close the wound completely. It is usual practice for the therapy to be discontinued before this and replaced with a different type of dressing. If your wound shows no improvement, the therapy might be stopped. Your doctor or nurse will discuss when, and why, it will be stopped as they assess your wound at each dressing change.

For how many hours a day do I need to use the therapy?

To get the full benefit of the therapy, we recommend that you stay on it at all times. Otherwise you may be at risk of delayed healing. If you need to disconnect from the mains power for a short period, you can use the back-up battery.

Can I move around while on the therapy?

Usually, patients using NPWT can move around, but this will depend on the position of the wound and the rest of your treatment. If you are able to move around and need to, the NPWT device can be unplugged as each device has back up battery. The battery will last for 20 hours but it is recommended it is charged up overnight.

What will the dressing look like when the therapy is working?

The dressing will shrink when the therapy is working, and the film dressing will look wrinkled.



Showering and washing

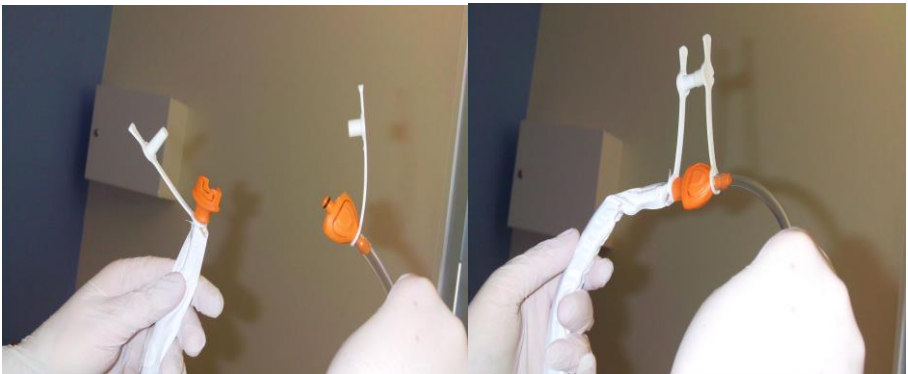
The clear dressing on top of the wound is waterproof.

You can shower or wash with dressings in place, as long as you take care not to soak them.

Before showering or washing- to avoid water coming into contact with electricity- you must disconnect the dressing from the NPWT device where the dressing tube meets the canister tube, see images below.

.You will need to connect to the NPWT device as soon as you have finished showering or washing.

Please speak to your nurse or doctor to find out more.



Will the dressing changes hurt?

The first time the therapy device is turned on, you may feel a slight pulling or drawing sensation, but it is not usually painful. If you experience any pain please speak to your nurse or doctor for advice. They may recommend changing the settings on your NPWT device or may prescribe pain relief medication.

Some people may experience slight discomfort during dressing changes, depending on the type and position of the wound.

If you feel any discomfort, please tell the person who is changing your dressing. This way, they will be able to give you advice and, if necessary, pain-relief medication to help ease the discomfort.

What happens if the therapy machine alarms?

All NPWT devices have both audio and visual alarms, which make it easy to see what the problem is. Most problems are easily solved and your nurse or doctor will advise of the action to be taken.

If you are using the RENASYS GO device the following alarm messages may be displayed:



Alarm messages

**! Attention
! Low Battery**

Plug into mains
as soon as possible

**!! RECHARGE
!! V. Low
Battery**

Plug into mains
as soon as possible

**!! RECHARGE
NOW
!! BATTERY**

Plug into mains
as soon as possible

**!! RECHARGE
!! EX.LOW**

Plug into mains
as soon as possible

**!! WARNING
!!LOW VACUUM**

The vacuum level is low
There is a leak in the
dressing, tubing or
canister. Contact your
nurse or doctor.

**!! WARNING
!!HIGH VACUUM**

The system has
encountered a high
vacuum condition.
Contact your nurse or
Doctor.

**!!THERAPY STOP
!!OVER VACUUM**

The system has
Encountered an
excessively high vacuum
and will automatically
switch off. Contact your
nurse or doctor.

**!! WARNING
!!BLOCKAGE/FULL**

The system detected the
canister is full or there is
a blockage in the system.
Contact your nurse
or doctor.

**!! WARNING
!! LEAK**

The system has detected
significant leak for more
than 1min.
Contact your nurse or
Doctor.

**!!! DEVICE
FAILED
!!!Please Return**

The device has an
unrecoverable error.
Contact your nurse or
doctor.

**! Attention
! INACTIVE**

The device should either
be switched on or
switched off.

Daily tips for users

Check frequently to ensure that:

- The NPWT device is switched on
- The device display says '*continues*'
- All plastic dressing tubing clamps are open
- The dressing has collapsed and has a wrinkled appearance

Upon completing these checks if you have any concerns please contact your nurse or doctor

Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if:

- You see sudden increase or a large amount of blood from your wound in the tubing or canister:
 - Turn **OFF** the therapy device immediately
 - Put pressure over the area
 - Do not remove your dressing
 - Contact your nurse or doctor immediately or attend Accident and Emergency department
- You notice a big change in the colour or quantity of the fluid in the canister, e.g. if it changes from clear to cloudy or bright red
- Your wound looks more red than usual, or smells
- You experience pain
- The alarm will not turn off
- The NPWT device is turned off for more than 2 hours

Other information

- Please take care not to spill any liquids onto the therapy device; it must remain dry at all times
- Extension cords should not be used with the therapy device
- **Do not** attempt to service or repair this equipment. If you have any problems with this equipment please contact your nurse or doctor immediately.

If you have any other questions, please speak to your nurse or doctor

Your nurse_____

Your doctor_____

Smith &Nephew 24 hour Clinical Support Freephone Number

UK: **08009155394**

Other useful numbers_____

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