



V.A.C.® Therapy 101

Are you suffering from a wound?

Ask your doctor about V.A.C.® Therapy
and whether it may be right for you.

Wound Healing is a Process

Proper wound care management is important to heal your wound and your doctor may prescribe the V.A.C.® Therapy System for your care. A clinician is responsible for directing the use of the V.A.C.® Therapy System including application and periodic dressing changes.

How Long Will it Take to Heal My Wound?

The length of time to heal a wound is different for every patient. General conditions, size and location of the wound, and nutritional status can affect the time it takes for a wound to heal. Your clinician will discuss when and why V.A.C.® Therapy may begin and end.

What is V.A.C.® Therapy?

V.A.C.® Therapy is a medical device system that promotes wound healing by delivering negative pressure (a vacuum) at the wound site through a patented dressing and therapy unit creating an environment that promotes the wound healing process. This negative pressure helps draw wound edges together, remove wound fluids and infectious materials and promote granulation tissue formation (the connective tissue in healing wounds).

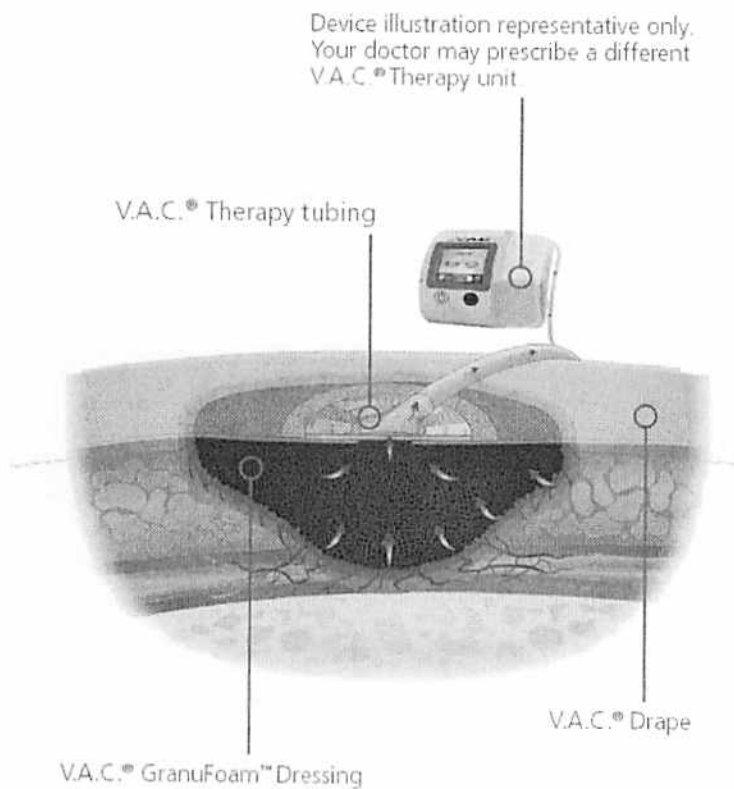
Unlike gauze bandages that merely cover a wound, V.A.C.® Therapy actively works to help the wound healing process.

The V.A.C.® Therapy System helps:

- Promote wound healing
- Provide a moist wound healing environment
- Draw wound edges together
- Remove fluid and infectious materials
- Reduce wound odor
- Reduce the need for daily dressing changes

The V.A.C.® Therapy System is an Advanced Wound Therapy System Consisting of Four Parts:

- The V.A.C.® Therapy unit that delivers negative pressure
- Sterile plastic tubing with SensaT.R.A.C.™ pressure sensing lumens that connects the therapy unit to the dressing
- Special foam dressings (V.A.C.® GranuFoam™ and V.A.C.® WhiteFoam Dressings) that are placed in the wound
- A clear drape with adhesive (V.A.C.® Drape) that covers the foam dressing(s)



There is Only One V.A.C.® Therapy

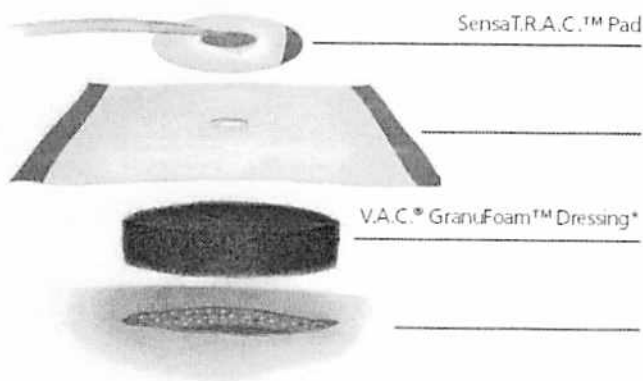
KCI commercialized the world's first negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) system, V.A.C.® Therapy, and is a market leader in advanced wound therapy.

With more published clinical evidence than any other form of NPWT, V.A.C.® Therapy has been selected as the treatment of choice for more than 3 million patients worldwide. Many clinicians, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, wound care centers and home health agencies use or prescribe the advanced V.A.C.® Therapy System to help their patients heal.

There are other NPWT systems, but utilizing a proprietary NPWT pump, advanced software and pressure regulating technology (SensaT.R.A.C.™) and a diverse foam dressing portfolio, V.A.C.® Therapy is the original and most widely prescribed NPWT treatment in the world.

V.A.C.® Dressing Placement

The V.A.C.® dressing goes on or inside a wound. One end of the tubing connects to the dressing. The other end connects to the canister that fits into the therapy unit. The wound area is sealed with the clear V.A.C.® Drape with adhesive that helps maintain negative pressure over the wound.



*If used, V.A.C.® WhiteFoam is typically recommended for placement under V.A.C.® GranuFoam™ Dressing.

V.A.C.® Dressing Changes

The V.A.C.® Therapy System uses proprietary foam dressings (V.A.C.® GranuFoam™ and/or WhiteFoam) with the therapy unit. Only V.A.C.® dressings are to be used with the V.A.C.® therapy units. Wounds treated with the V.A.C.® Therapy System should be monitored on a regular basis by your clinicians who are responsible for treatment.

- For a non-infected wound: KCI recommends the V.A.C.® dressings be changed every 48 to 72 hours, but no less than 3 times per week.
- For infected wounds: These wounds must be monitored often and very closely. Infected wounds dressing changes may need to be changed more often than 48 to 72 hours. Dressing change intervals should be based on continuing evaluation of your wound condition by your clinician.

IMPORTANT: The V.A.C.® Therapy System is indicated for patients with chronic, acute, traumatic and dehisced wounds, partial-thickness burns, ulcers (such as diabetic or pressure), and flaps and grafts. V.A.C.® Therapy is contraindicated for patients with malignancy in the wound, untreated osteomyelitis, non-enteric and unexplored fistulas, necrotic tissue with eschar present and sensitivity to silver (V.A.C.® GranuFoam™ Silver Dressing only).

Do not place V.A.C.® foam dressings in contact with exposed blood vessels, anastomotic sites, organs, nerves. Please discuss and review this information and the device instructions for use with your clinician so you can fully understand the benefits and risks of V.A.C.® Therapy.

Some frequently asked questions about V.A.C.® Therapy

1. How does V.A.C.® Therapy feel?

Most patients describe V.A.C.® Therapy as a non-painful, mild pulling sensation that, in most cases, is not noticeable after a few minutes. Wound comfort may vary by individual. The wound may become tender or itch as it heals; this is usually a good sign. If itching or discomfort persists, please contact your doctor.

2. Can you move around while on V.A.C.[®] Therapy?
Your ability to move around depends on your condition, the wound location and type of therapy unit prescribed. The V.A.C.[®] Therapy System may be disconnected so you can take a shower. Therapy may not be off any longer than two hours per day.

3. What does the foam dressing look like when V.A.C.[®] Therapy is working?
Your doctor may prescribe a V.A.C.[®] GranuFoam™ or V.A.C.[®] WhiteFoam Dressing for your wound type. The V.A.C.[®] GranuFoam™ Dressing will shrink down and wrinkle like a raisin when V.A.C.[®] Therapy is working. The V.A.C.[®] WhiteFoam Dressing may only have a few wrinkles.

4. Does changing the V.A.C.[®] dressing hurt?
Some people do experience discomfort during dressing changes depending on the wound type, location and patient condition. The discomfort is similar to other dressings and wound care treatments for the same wound type. Your doctor or nurse can give you advice about pain relief.

5. Who should change my dressing?
Usually a nurse from your doctor's office, home health agency or wound care clinic trained in V.A.C.[®] Therapy, will change your dressing. If deemed appropriate by your clinician, a caregiver, family member or friend may change the dressing if they have been properly trained. If so, to help reduce the risk of infection to you and/or your caregiver, please follow these steps:

- Caregiver should wash hands before and after each patient contact or procedure.
- Caregiver should always wear gloves and protective clothing and eyewear when handling blood or body fluid, or when in contact with mucous membranes or open cuts.
- Any caregiver with an open cut or skin condition should not care for the patient until the condition has been cleared.

6. When should I call my clinician when on V.A.C.[®] Therapy?

Immediately report to your clinician any of these signs:

- Fever over 102°
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Confusion
- Sick to your stomach or throwing up
- Dizziness or feel faint when you stand up
- Redness around the wound
- Skin itches or rash present
- Wound is sore, red or swollen
- Pus or bad smell from the wound
- Bleeding around the wound
- Area in or around wound feels very warm

7. What happens if the V.A.C.[®] Therapy System alarms?

The V.A.C.[®] Therapy System is built with your safety in mind. The V.A.C.[®] Therapy unit has alarms that you can see and hear which will alert you to a potential problem. In most situations, the reason for the alarm is easily fixed. This is something your clinician can explain in more detail, so you are comfortable with this alarm system.

9. How noisy is the V.A.C.[®] Therapy System?

All of the V.A.C.[®] Therapy Systems are medical devices with moving parts. Noise may seem louder at night when surrounding noise level is greatly decreased. The units are designed with software that help to identify leaks at the wound site.

When a leak is present, the unit may make a ramping noise and the unit will begin to alarm. When the seal has been fixed, the unit will no longer alarm and the ramping noise will stop. The unit may also have a gurgling sound when clearing air from the system.

10. Who should I contact if I have further questions?

Contact your clinician with any medical questions. In case of an emergency immediately call your local emergency contact number (i.e. 911). Once V.A.C.[®] Therapy is prescribed, for questions about V.A.C.[®] operation call 1-800-275-4524.



To learn more about the KCI V.A.C.® Therapy System, please visit our website at www.kci1.com or call us at 1-800-275-4524.

This is a summary of some basic information about V.A.C.® Therapy. It is not intended to be a guide to product use, operation and placement. Please read the V.A.C.® Therapy System Quick Reference Guide and V.A.C.® Therapy System User Manual for specific questions and important information about V.A.C.® Therapy System indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and operation and discuss this information with your clinician.

CAUTION: Federal law restricts this device to sale (or sale/rental) by or on the order of a physician.



©2009 KCI Licensing, Inc. All rights reserved. All trademarks designated herein are proprietary to KCI Licensing, Inc., its affiliates and/or licensors. The V.A.C.® System and certain components and methods are subject to one or more of the following patents: USA: 5636643, 5645081, 6142982, 6345623, 6553998, 6814079, 7004915, 7198046, 7216651, EU: EP777504, EP620720, EP865304, EP1008569, EP53950, EP1018967, EP1219311, EP1440667, other patents pending.
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