

Wound V.A.C. Therapy

Your child's doctor suggests Vacuum Assisted Closure (V.A.C.) therapy to help your child's wound or incision heal.

What is a Wound V.A.C.?

Wound V.A.C therapy is also called Negative Pressure Wound Therapy. Your child will have a special foam dressing placed over the wound. A tube connects the dressing to a machine that uses gentle suction (negative pressure) to heal the wound.

This helps bring the edges of the wound together, pulls fluid and bacteria out, and allows the tissue to heal. Wound V.A.C. therapy is comfortable and helps the wound heal quicker than other types of dressings.

How is Wound V.A.C. therapy managed at home?

The doctor will choose how often your child's wound V.A.C. should be changed at home. At times, the dressing changes may be managed in the Children's Day Hospital on Level AA at The Children's Hospital.

The home Wound V.A.C. machine and its supplies are delivered in a large box. If the dressings are to be changed in clinic, please bring one of each of these supplies with you to your appointment:

- One foam dressing kit
- One canister
- Wound V.A.C. machine

The Wound V.A.C. comes fully charged. It is best to plug it in at night and when your child is sitting or resting for a long time. This keeps the battery full and ready to go when your child leaves home.

Your child's Wound V.A.C. will be set at _____ **mmHg to continuous suction**. This setting may be changed by your doctor or Wound Ostomy team as needed.

Can my child take a bath or swim with the Wound V.A.C. dressing in place?

No. The Wound V.A.C. dressing must stay dry. Do not let your child take a bath or swim while using it. Getting the dressing wet can:

- Make the tape and foam come off.
- Cause a rash or fungal infection due to the water.
- Damage the Wound V.A.C. machine, which is an electrical device and should never be near water due to the risk of electric shock.

What should I do if the Wound V.A.C. alarm says "leak detected"?

If the Wound V.A.C. alarm says "leak" or the dressing is not holding suction, follow these steps:

1. Check the dressing, tubing, and canister to make sure everything is secure and connected.
2. Use the clear tape from your supplies to keep the dressing in place if needed.
3. If that does not fix it, try changing the canister.
4. If the problem continues, call the troubleshooting number from Solventum or the Children's Hospital Wound Team for help.

What should I do if the Wound V.A.C. alarm says “low pressure” or “blockage”?

Sometimes, wound drainage can dry or get thick, blocking the flow of the tubing. If the Wound V.A.C. alarm says “blockage” or “low pressure”, try:

1. Changing the canister.
2. If the alarm does not stop, replace the trackpad/tubing piece. To do this, follow these steps:
 - Cut out only the circular trackpad and tubing from the dressing, leaving the rest of the dressing in place.
 - Open a new dressing kit and peel off the tape backing on the new trackpad.
 - Place the new trackpad where the old one was.
 - Attach the tubing to the canister tubing and restart the Wound V.A.C.
3. If the problem continues, call the troubleshooting number at Solventum first. If problem cannot be fixed, call the Children’s Hospital Wound Team.

Never leave the foam dressing in the wound for more than two hours if the Wound V.A.C. is off or not working. If this happens:

- The whole Wound V.A.C. and all the dressings need to be removed.
- After removing the dressing, cover the wound with gauze soaked in saline or sterile water. Then, place dry gauze on top and secure it with tape.
- If the Wound V.A.C. dressing was removed and needs to be replaced, call the Children’s Hospital Wound Team or the doctor who ordered the Wound V.A.C. to schedule an appointment.

If there is no drainage in the canister, is the Wound V.A.C. still working?

Yes. Every wound drains differently. Some have little to no drainage, while others drain more. A lack of drainage in the canister is not a problem as long as:

- The dressing is flat and compressed.
- The machine is running without alarms.

If the dressing is compressed, the Wound V.A.C. is working to bring the wound edges together and help it heal faster, even with little drainage.

For any questions about the Wound V.A.C. you may call:

- Solventum (available 24/7): 1-800-275-4524
- Children’s Hospital Wound Team: 918-502-0492 or 918-494-1095
- Your doctor’s office _____

This information is not meant to replace the advice of your Healthcare Professional. Be sure to ask questions and discuss your medical condition or any medical treatments with your doctor.