COMPLEX FOOT TRAUMA TREATED BY VACUUM-ASSISTED CLOSURE

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Introduction: Several reports have documented the acceleration of granulation growth and decreased healing time of wounds with the use of the VAC device. Our goal was to evaluate our experience with the VAC device in the treatment of open traumatic foot wounds.

Method: The VAC device consisted of a sponge applied directly to foot’s wounds, covered with impermeable transparent dressing, and attached to a low negative pressure system. The sponge was changed every 3 to 5 days under local sedation. We selected 24 patients with complex foot trauma divided in two groups on the base of treatment modality if it was continous or not. The kind of wounds treated, were widely fenestrated, infected and exposed fractures. This therapy has been applied in a range time from 4 to 8 weeks and any medical treatment has been required even if the group treated by the intermitted way needed an anti dolorific therapy.

Results: The continous way seems to be much more efficacy than the intermitted one infact in these patients. The use of the device has been shown to decrease the time to healing, to decrease length of hospitalizations, and to lower infection rates of complex wounds. Vacuum assisted closure was associated with rapid shrinkage, cleansing of the wound, excellent granulation, maintenance of a sterile environment and easy of use with changes possible at the bedside.

Discussion: The VAC device should be considered an effective alternative in treating complicated cases of foot trauma until a more definitive method can be used.