Wound Management

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy and You: A guide for patients
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?
A therapy device is applied to your wound, which draws out excess fluid to help promote healing. It is now being widely used in both hospitals and the home.

How does it work?
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.

The NPWT device is electrical and can be plugged in at the mains. There is also a back-up battery for portable use.

Which device do I have?

RENASYS™ EZ Plus
Battery = 40 hours

RENASYS GO
Battery = 20 hours
For how many hours a day do you need to use the therapy?

To get the full benefit of the therapy, we recommend that you stay on it at all times, where possible, or 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.

How long will it take to improve your wound?

The length of time that the 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 although it is usual practice for the therapy to be discontinued before this and replaced with a different type of dressing. Your nurse or doctor will make this decision following a review of you and your wound.

If your wound shows no improvement, the therapy might be stopped. Your nurse or doctor will discuss when, and why, it will be stopped as they assess your wound at each dressing change.

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

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

RENASYS™-G dressing - gauze filler  RENASYS-F/P dressing - foam filler
**Will it be painful?**

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.

**How often will the dressings have to be changed?**

The dressings will usually need to be changed 2–3 times a week, but in some cases, it may be more often than this. This will depend on the size, type and position of your wound.

**Will the dressing changes hurt?**

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.
Can you move around while on the therapy?

Usually, patients using the therapy 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 a back-up battery.

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 image below). Please speak to your nurse or doctor to find out more.
- You will need to reconnect to the NPWT device as soon as you have finished showering or washing. Please speak to your nurse or doctor to find out more.
Daily tips for users

Check frequently to ensure that:

• The NPWT device is switched on
• If using RENASYS° GO ensure the device display says continuous
• 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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alarm messages</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>! Attention ! Low Battery</td>
<td>Plug into mains as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! RECHARGE !! V. Low Battery</td>
<td>Plug into mains as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>! Attention ! Low Battery</td>
<td>Plug into mains as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! RECHARGE !! EX. LOW BATTERY</td>
<td>Plug into mains as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! RECHARGE NOW !! BATTERY FAIL</td>
<td>Plug into mains as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! WARNING !! LOW VACUUM</td>
<td>The vacuum level is low or there is a leak in the dressing, tubing or canister all of which can be replaced. Contact your nurse or doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! WARNING !! HIGH VACUUM</td>
<td>The system has encountered a high vacuum condition. Contact your nurse or doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! THERAPY STOP !! OVER VACUUM</td>
<td>The system has encountered an excessively high vacuum and will automatically switch off. Contact your nurse or doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! WARNING !! BLOCKAGE/FULL</td>
<td>The system detects the canister is full or there is a blockage in the system. Contact your nurse or doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!! WARNING !! LEAK</td>
<td>The system has detected a significant leak for more than 1 minute. Contact your nurse or doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!!! DEVICE FAILED !!! Please Return</td>
<td>The device has an unrecoverable error. Contact your nurse or doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>! Attention ! INACTIVE</td>
<td>The device should either be switched on or switched off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tell your nurse or doctor immediately if:

• You see a 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 doctor or nurse immediately

• 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 two hours

Other important 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 24hr NPWT support line:
UK: 0845 1200167
Ireland: 01217 0484

Other useful numbers: ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
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An educational initiative sponsored by Smith & Nephew

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