ADVICE FOR PATIENTS ON THE USE OF VERSAJET® IN THE DEBRIDEMENT OF DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS

For your foot ulcer to heal, dead tissue must be removed from the wound.

There are different ways in which dead tissue can be removed from a wound:
- Sharp removal - usually with a scalpel
- Dressings - these moisten the dead tissue so that it gradually lifts off from the wound
- Maggots - these are bred for this purpose and eat the dead tissue
- VERSAJET – quickly removes the tissue using water

The VERSAJET removes dead tissue from the wound using a vacuum created by a jet of water. The dead tissue is lifted up and sucked away by the vacuum. VERSAJET allows dead tissue to be removed quickly with minimal damage to healthy tissue and may also remove bacteria potentially causing infection.

VERSAJET has been found to be quicker than the other methods of removing dead tissue and could reduce the number of visits you need to make to the hospital. Some patients need to be admitted into hospital for treatment of their ulcer, and VERSAJET may also help to reduce this possibility.

During or after removal of dead tissue the wound may appear larger to you, this is quite normal and is due to more healthy tissue being revealed. The wound bed will be pinker and there may be some bleeding which should be minimal and can be controlled with dressings.

In the unlikely event that pain relief is needed during or after the procedure this can be discussed with your clinician. However in the majority of procedures pain is acceptable when using Versajet.
Care of your wound following VERSAJET:

As with any wound, to reduce the risk of infection the wound must be kept clean and dry.

Check the area around the dressing at least daily and if you notice:
Redness / colour change
Heat
Swelling
Offensive smell
Excess discharge
Pain

Contact ........................................ during the hour of 
....... to ........ Monday to Friday on .........................
Or ........................................
If out of hours contact your local G.P surgery or attend the Accident and Emergency Department.

References: