

## Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

### Indications and Contraindications

Indications	Contraindications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who have been deemed a candidate for adjunctive therapies, see “Determining Candidacy for Adjunctive Therapies”</li> <li>• Wound types:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diabetic foot ulcers (1B)</li> <li>○ Pressure injuries</li> <li>○ Surgical wounds</li> <li>○ Grafts and flaps</li> <li>○ Traumatic wounds</li> <li>○ Partial-thickness burns</li> <li>○ Pilonidal sinus wounds</li> <li>○ Necrotizing fasciitis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To accelerate the formation of granulation tissue</li> <li>• To improve perfusion through removal of excess interstitial fluid</li> <li>• To reduce bacterial colonization</li> <li>• To enhance epithelial migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of necrotic and fibrotic tissue</li> <li>• Untreated osteomyelitis</li> <li>• Malignant wounds</li> <li>• Localized ischemia</li> <li>• High output, non-enteric and unexplored fistulas</li> <li>• In the absence of appropriate blood supply</li> <li>• Severe excoriation of periwound</li> <li>• Do not place dressings in direct contact with exposed blood vessels, anastomotic sites, organs or nerves</li> <li>• Do not place dressings into blind/unexplored tunnels</li> <li>• Stop therapy if person experiences autonomic dysreflexia</li> <li>• Do not place therapy in proximity to the vagus nerve</li> <li>• Do not over fill the wound with dressing material</li> </ul>
Precautions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with weakened or friable blood vessels or organs in or around the wound as a result of suturing of the blood vessel/organ, infection, trauma, or radiation</li> <li>• People without adequate wound hemostasis or where achieving hemostasis was difficult</li> <li>• In those with active bleeding</li> <li>• Anticoagulant and/or platelet aggregation inhibitor use</li> <li>• People who do not have adequate tissue coverage over vascular structures</li> <li>• In those with immunodeficient disease, i.e. leukemia, HIV</li> <li>• Protect exposed or superficial vessels and organs prior to the application of negative pressure</li> <li>• Infected blood vessels</li> <li>• Hemostatic agents applied at the wound site, i.e. bone wax, absorbable gelatin sponge, or spray wound sealant</li> <li>• Sharp edges, i.e. bone fragments or sharp bone edges</li> <li>• Infected wounds</li> <li>• Inflammatory wounds</li> <li>• Caution in those with adhesive allergies</li> <li>• Avoid a circumferential dressing</li> <li>• Inspect the wound thoroughly to ensure all dressing components are accounted for/removed</li> <li>• Post-surgical excision of malignancy</li> </ul>	

Level of Evidence	Definition
1A	Evidence obtained from meta-analysis or systematic review of RCTs
1B	Evidence obtained from at least one RCT
2A	Evidence obtained from at least one well-designed controlled study without randomization
2B	Evidence obtained from at least one other type of well-designed quasi-experimental study without randomization
3	Evidence obtained from well-designed non-experimental descriptive study, such as a comparative study, correlation study, and/or case study
4	Evidence obtained from expert committee reports or opinions and/or clinical experience of respected authority

RCT = randomized controlled trial