

Wound V.A.C.[®] (Negative Pressure Wound Therapy)



Return to the Emergency Department with your child if:	Call your child's regular doctor if your child:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is bright red blood in the canister or at the dressing site. • Your child has increased pain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has signs of a wound infection. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fever - Redness - Swelling - Pus - Rash or red streaks coming from around the wound - More itching - More drainage from the wound

A Wound V.A.C.[®] is a system that uses controlled negative pressure (vacuum) to help the wound heal. It helps by getting rid of infectious materials and other fluids from the wound. It uses a foam dressing that goes inside the wound, a clear plastic dressing to seal the wound area (similar to a large bandage), tubing to connect the foam to a collection canister, and a machine to operate the suction. Your healthcare provider will order the dressing to be changed every 2 to 3 days.

The Wound V.A.C.[®] dressing:

- Removes fluid from the wound
- Promotes a moist wound healing environment
- Helps bring wound edges together
- Removes infectious materials like pus
- Increases blood flow to the wound
- Helps protect the tissue in the wound

Tips for Troubleshooting:

The Wound V.A.C.[®] should **alarm** for the following:

<p>Canister is full.</p>	<p>It will alarm if it is full or if the tubing is kinked or blocked. Replace canister if it is full. Check to make sure that the tubing is not kinked or clamped.</p>
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A leak is detected in the dressing.	You may hear a whistling sound. Often the leak is around the tubing or at a fold in the skin. Patch the leak with a clear dressing like Tegaderm® or clear drape as needed. (the clear drape is included with the sponge)
Battery is low.	Recharge battery by plugging the system into a wall outlet. Make sure the charging light is on .
Therapy is not activated.	Press power button to turn unit off, then press it again to turn the unit back on. The unit should be set to the right amount of suction already.

- If you are not able to get the Wound V.A.C.® working after following these directions, please call PAWS at **314-454-7297** during normal business hours or KCI (the company that makes the Wound V.A.C.®) directly, 24 hours a day, at **1-800-275-4524**.
- **If the Wound V.A.C.® is off for more than two hours, please call you child's doctor right away.** If the suction is off for more than two hours, your child is at risk for infection. You may be told to bring your child to the nearest emergency unit to have the dressing changed.
- You will be given extra dressing supplies and canisters for use at home if needed.
- A handbook and DVD have been given to you with your Wound V.A.C.®. Please look over these items as soon as possible to get familiar with the equipment.

For General Health Information and Resources:

Call or visit the [Family Resource Center](#), a health information library on the 3rd floor of the hospital. Call 314.454.2350, email at frc@bjc.org, or check out the FREE [St. Louis Children's Hospital Kid Care App](#).

