SUMMARY

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy—Systematic Review of Randomized Controlled Trials

Background: In negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT), a wound is covered with an airtight dressing, and negative pressure is applied. This is thought to promote healing. We evaluated NPWT with an updated, systematic review of the literature.

Methods: We systematically searched the PubMed and Cochrane Library databases for randomized, controlled trials (RCTs) of NPWT for the treatment of acute or chronic wounds. The primary outcome was complete wound closure.

Results: We found reports of 9 RCTs in addition to the 12 covered by earlier IQWiG reviews of this topic. Five of the 9 new trials involved NPWT systems that are not on the market. The frequency of complete wound closure is stated in only 5 of the 9 new reports; a statistically significant effect in favor of NPWT was found in only two trials. The results of 8 of the 9 new trials are hard to interpret, both because of apparent bias and because diverse types of wounds were treated.

Conclusion: Although there may be a positive effect of NPWT, we did not find clear evidence that wounds heal any better or worse with NPWT than with conventional treatment. Good RCTs are still needed to evaluate NPWT.

Zitierweise


Mit „e“ gekennzeichnete Literatur:
www.aerzteblatt.de/lit2211

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