

# Taking the pressure off

You are bed-bound, recovering from surgery. Your operation went well but your lack of movement is causing new problems: 'bedsores' are developing on your heels, your ankles, your hips and your tailbone. You need the dressings on these wounds changed regularly or you will suffer considerable discomfort and take longer to heal. Modern wound care technology can help you get back to normal more quickly.

Bedsore, also known as pressure ulcer, are common. 1 in 5 patients have a pressure ulcer, of which 50-80% developed in hospital<sup>1</sup>. Pressure ulcers and infections that develop after surgery can lead to prolonged hospitalisation or repeat hospital admissions<sup>2</sup>.

Even relatively routine interventions can begin a cycle of wound-related hospitalisations which are distressing for patients and a burden on health systems<sup>2</sup>. For example, a patient may need three or four days in hospital to recover from a hip replacement but, if pressure ulcers develop and are not well-managed, a simple procedure can lead to a complex, long-running condition.

It is a growing problem. Europe's ageing population, and rising rates of obesity and diabetes, means more people are at risk of pressure ulcers during an illness or a period of prolonged inactivity<sup>2</sup>.

Rising numbers of diabetes-related foot amputations also increases the demand for wound management. Spending on wound care in Europe is approximately 2-4% of health expenditure with an average of between €6,000 and €10,000 on each patient per year<sup>3</sup>. One of the biggest cost drivers is nursing time<sup>1</sup>.

Good wound management can help to accelerate healing, reduce the impact on patients and break the cycle of repeat hospitalisation<sup>4</sup>. Wound care can be provided in a community setting, including in patients' own homes. For example, transportable Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) devices allow patients to return home to manage chronic wounds and heal faster.

NPWT creates a vacuum between the dressing and the wound, drawing fluid out of the wound and increasing blood flow to the area. Because patients can be shown how to apply NPWT themselves, this technology empowers patients to play an active role in their healing and improves patient wellbeing<sup>5</sup>.

By reducing the number of dressing changes required, the burden on health services – especially specialist and hospital care – is eased<sup>6</sup>.

Studies have shown the NPWT is cost-effective compared to traditional wound dressings<sup>7</sup>. As demand for wound care services rises, innovation technologies are making healthcare more efficient and supporting patients to live normal lives<sup>5</sup>.

### Medtech: value for people

- Empowers patients to play an active role in wound management<sup>5</sup>
- Advances patients' wound healing in their own homes
- Reduces the duration of hospital stay and reduces readmission rate<sup>4</sup>
- Such transportable devices allow patients to feel comfortable while recovering

### Medtech: value for governments

- Moves care from hospital setting to the community, delivering efficiency<sup>4</sup>
- Advances wound healing while improving patient quality-of-life and well-being<sup>5</sup>
- Transportable patient-centric solutions that are convenient for patients and help to accelerate recovery and return to work
- Delivers value through innovation and supports high-quality jobs in Europe

### Medtech: value for regulators

- Proven to support wound healing
- Reduces risk of long-term wound problems through good wound management
- Considered safe and effective in healing a wide range of wounds<sup>8</sup>
- Evidence of reduced wound healing complications in orthopaedic and cardiothoracic surgery<sup>9</sup>

### Medtech: value for payers

- Promotes wound healing<sup>4</sup>
  - Reduces demand for hospital-based care and specialist services<sup>4,5</sup>
  - Requires fewer dressing changes<sup>4</sup>
- Supports patients in returning to the workforce



#### NOTES

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- 5) Hurd T, Chadwick P, Cote J, et al., Impact of gauze based NPWT on the patient and nursing experience in the treatment of challenging wounds. Int. Wound J. Dec 2010;7(6):448-455.
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- 9) Karlakki,S (December 2013). Negative pressure wound therapy for management of the surgical incision in orthopaedic surgery. Bone Joint Res. 2013 Dec; 2(12): 276–284.