

Bridging and Offloading Technique Guide.

Offloading Technique Guide.

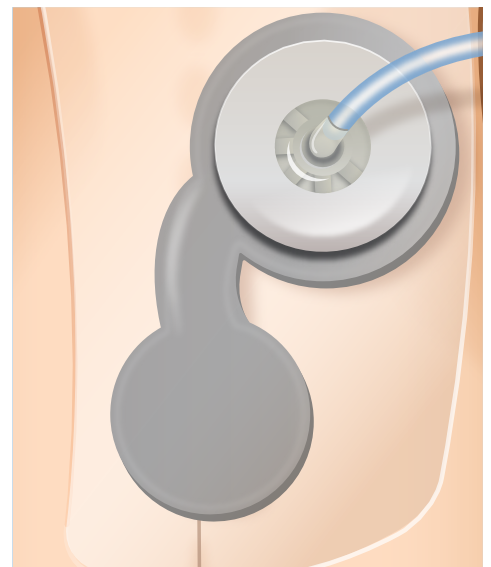
Offloading the 3M™ SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad.

Note: Applicable to both 3M™ V.A.C.® Therapy and 3M™ Veraflo™ Therapy.

Care must be taken to prevent trauma and/or pressure when placing tubing, particularly over bony prominences and other areas that will be under pressure. Consider the use of specialty offloading devices, mattresses, or dressings.

During application:

1. Determine where to best place the SensaT.R.A.C. Pad, avoiding bony prominences or areas that will be under pressure.
2. Protect intact skin between the wound and where the SensaT.R.A.C. Pad will be located with a piece of drape or other skin barrier such as a hydrocolloid dressing or a vapour-permeable adhesive film dressing.
3. Place foam dressing in the wound, then cut an elongated piece of foam and place over protected skin. All foam pieces must be in direct contact with each other.
4. Ensure the distal end of the elongated foam is wide enough to accommodate the SensaT.R.A.C. Pad.
5. Secure the SensaT.R.A.C. Pad and secure with additional drape to avoid inadvertent pulling or displacement.



Bridging between two wounds using 3M™ V.A.C.® Therapy.

Note: Bridging between two wounds should not be used with 3M™ Veraflo™ Therapy.

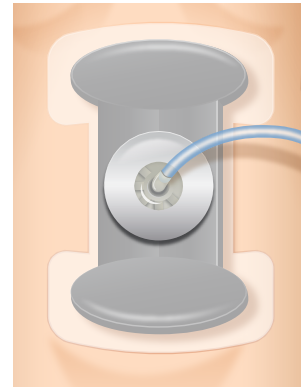
Wounds that are in close proximity to one another on the same patient and of similar pathologies may also be treated with one 3M™ V.A.C.® Therapy Unit using a technique known as bridging. The advantages of bridging include:

- The ability to join two or more wounds of like origin with one V.A.C.® Therapy Unit
- Allowing placement of the 3M™ SensaT.R.A.C. Pad and tubing in an appropriate location based on wound size, wound type and wound location

Step-by-step bridging guidelines:

1. Protect intact skin between the two wounds with a piece of drape (3M™ V.A.C.® Drape) or other skin barrier such as a hydrocolloid dressing or a vapour-permeable adhesive film dressing (3M™ Tegaderm™ Transparent Film Dressing). Do not use 3M™ V.A.C. Dermatac™ Drape for bridging.
2. Place foam dressing in both wounds, then connect the two wounds with an additional piece of foam, forming a bridge. All foam pieces must be in direct contact with each other.
3. It is important to place the SensaT.R.A.C. Pad in a central location to ensure that exudate from one wound is not drawn across the other wound.
4. It is not recommended to bridge wounds of different etiologies or to bridge an infected wound to a non-infected wound.

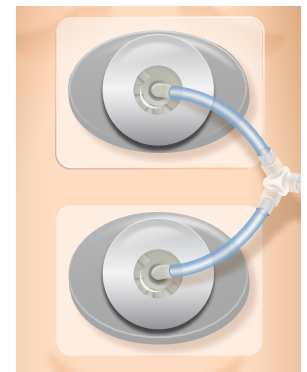
Tip: It is recommended to ensure a seal on one wound before adding a second.



Bridging with the 3M™ V.A.C.® Y-Connector.

By applying a V.A.C.® Y-Connector to the canister tubing, one V.A.C.® Therapy Unit may be used to simultaneously treat multiple wounds on the same patient. If this technique is used, all dressed wound sites must be assessed for seal integrity. The dressing should be collapsed. 3M™ V.A.C.® Granufoam™ Dressings and 3M™ V.A.C.® Granufoam Silver™ Dressings should have a wrinkled appearance. There should be no hissing sounds.

- SensaT.R.A.C. Technology only senses one wound site, the side with the post (male port), even when multiple sites are being treated
- It is not recommended to Y-connect grafts and/or flaps
- It is not recommended to use more than one V.A.C.® Y-Connector per therapy unit
- Do not connect infected wounds with non-infected wounds through a V.A.C.® Y-Connector
- Do not connect wounds with different etiologies in which cross contamination may occur
- Avoid using a V.A.C.® Y-Connector to connect wounds that would be optimally treated with differing pressure settings
- Consider the V.A.C.® Y-Connector as an extension of canister tubing
- Change the V.A.C.® Y-Connector at least once a week or more frequently, as needed, when the canister is changed. Dispose of the V.A.C.® Y-Connector, the canister tubing and the canister in accordance with specific institution protocols or state and local regulations



Note: Drawing not representative of actual tubing length when Y-Connector is used.

For more information, please contact your 3M representative.

Note: Specific indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and safety information exist for these products and therapies. Please consult a clinician and product Instructions for Use prior to application. This material is intended for healthcare professionals.



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USA
1-800-364-3577

KCI Medical Canada, Inc.
75 Courtneypark Dr., W.,
Unit 4
Mississauga, ON
L5W 0E3

KCI USA, INC.
12930 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX
78249

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