

Use of Solventum™ V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing Following Staged Achilles Repair of the Right Foot

Ralph J. Napolitano, Jr., DPM, CWSP, FACFAS; OrthoNeuro, Columbus, OH; Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University, Athens, OH

Patient & diagnosis

A 40-year-old female with a history of chronic Achilles tendinopathy for approximately one year affecting the right foot. Previous medical history includes lupus and hypertension.

Procedure

The patient underwent a staged Achilles repair including adjunct anchor hardware removal in light of additional complications. As primary wound closure was not possible, traditional Solventum™ V.A.C.® Therapy was initially applied using traditional dressings with dressing changes every 48-72 hours but no less than three times per week.

Initial application of Solventum™ V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing

Transition from traditional negative pressure wound therapy to V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing occurred after approximately 10 days (**Figure 1**). The decision to switch dressings was taken due to patient compliance with traditional negative pressure wound therapy and in order to reduce time spent on dressing changes and for the longer wear time. The medium-sized V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing was selected. The integrated and perforated non-adherent layer allowed negative pressure to be delivered to the wound and surrounding soft tissue. The Solventum™ SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad was placed over the medial malleolus. Negative pressure of -150 mmHg was applied due to wound over wetting using the Solventum™ ActiV.A.C.™ Therapy Unit (**Figure 2**). Off-loading with a walking boot was utilized to afford traction on the wound site and to aid in tendon healing.



Figure 1. Wound at initial presentation after 10 days of traditional negative pressure wound therapy.



Figure 2. Application of a medium-sized V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing.

Treatment

After five days, the dressing was changed. The wound bed showed rapid development of granulation tissue and a reduction of wound depth (**Figure 3**). The periwound skin showed signs of mild periwound irritation. The small-sized V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing, which has an up to 7-day wear time, was applied to the wound based on the positive wound healing trajectory and to reduce further periwound irritation (**Figure 4**). Dressing changes occurred every five days as a trial to see how the extended dressing wear was tolerated past three days in light of the wound location. Dressing removal was performed after an additional five days and V.A.C.® Therapy was discontinued. The wound size was reduced, and areas of re-epithelialization were observed (**Figure 5**). The mild periwound irritation was resolved, though a mild transient dermal deformation was present where the SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad had been placed. This deformation was resolved within five days of discontinuing therapy.



Figure 4. Wound after five days of therapy.



Figure 5. Application of a small size V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing.

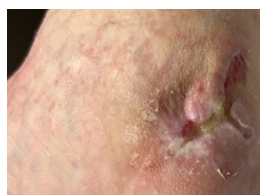


Figure 6. Wound after an additional five days of therapy was discontinued.

Use of Solventum™ V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing Following Staged Achilles Repair of the Right Foot

Follow-up

Bioactive glass wound matrix was utilized after discontinuation of V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing with continued wound healing observed at three weeks (**Figures 6-7**).



Figure 6. Wound after one application of bioactive glass wound matrix.



Figure 7. Wound three weeks after bioactive glass wound matrix application.

Clinician experience

The V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing application was quick and easy, requiring only minimal trimming or shaping of the drape. The clinician observed that it would be beneficial to consider use of V.A.C.® Peel and Place Dressing for every patient when appropriate as the wound moved through the healing continuum. In this case, it was beneficial to step down the dressing size based on the wound's healing trajectory and disposition.

As with any case study, the results and outcomes should not be interpreted as a guarantee for warranty of similar results. Individual results may vary depending on the patient's circumstances and condition.

NOTE: Specific indications, limitations, contraindications, warnings, precautions and safety information exist for these products and therapies. Please consult a clinician and product instructions for use prior to application. Rx only.

Photos courtesy of Ralph J. Napolitano, Jr., DPM, CWSP, FACFAS; OrthoNeuro, Columbus, OH; Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University, Athens, OH.