Title: VAC Dressings for Wound Care: Cost-Effectiveness and Guidelines for Use

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Research question:

1. What is the cost-effectiveness of VAC dressings compared to other types of wound care for wound healing?
2. Is there any evidence that VAC dressings decrease hospital length of stay compared to other types of wound care?
3. Is there a specific patient population that VAC dressings should be used for?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 1, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2007 and February 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, observational studies, guidelines and economic studies. Internet links are provided, where available.

Results:

1 HTA, 2 systematic reviews, 3 cost studies, 4 randomized controlled trials, 1 observational study and 1 guideline were identified pertaining to the cost-effectiveness and guidelines for the use of VAC dressings for wound care. Although only the observational study and 2 cost studies specify hospital length of stay as a result in the abstract, it is likely that this variable has been reported in the other publications as well. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the Appendix of this report.
Health technology assessments


Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Note: English assessment with Dutch summary.

Economic analyses and cost information


Randomized controlled trials


Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations


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Appendix – Further information:

Systematic reviews


Observational studies


Review articles


Additional references