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Negative pressure wound therapy

Negative pressure wound therapy has been attempted within the animal medicine field previously, however, was very limited due to pump size, weight, and power supply. Hand size pumps have now opened this field to both large and small animal practice.

A small new pump has been introduced into the veterinary market with a long action life and canisters that are easily clipped into place. Both traditional and scar management can be treated with this system by specially adapted hybrid dressings which have been developed for this market. Increased therapy choice allows ownership of the treatment. Each vet develops their own way of retention and found the animals were not disturbed when the pump was in use due to the silent action and lightweight.

Both cavity and scar line treatment can be achieved using this system for traditional and variable therapy. Pumps run up to one year if used in accordance with guidelines. Accessories enable use from small dogs and cats to equine in any situation. With a charge life of 42 hours. Lateral flow tests show uniform pressure achieved under the dressings meeting safety requirements.

Discussion: The smaller portable pumps have allowed Vets to introduce NPWT within small and large animal practise. As the pumps are silent the animals were not disturbed which meant they could be used in clinics, home, stables, and yards effectively and safely. Hybrid dressing allowed easier faster application in difficult settings.

Vets became very innovative where to use them and how to fasten to the animal safely. Multiple case studies can be shown how effective this treatment has become for the veterinary field in some circumstances animals would have been euthanized. This has led to animals being used for stud and quality of life improvement for lonely owners during pandemic.

Recent Publications

1. Kathleen Leak, Sue Johnson. Going green: using a bio-cellulose membrane for patients with chronic non-healing wounds. *British journal of nursing*, 2015, 24(Sup20): S60-S66.
2. Sue Johnson, Pam Spruce, Kathleen Leak, Denise Ridsdale. Using a hydroconductive dressing: a case series. *Journal of Community Nursing*, 2013, 27(3): 33-36.
3. M. Thomas, M. Hamdan, S. Hailes, M. Walker, Susan Johnson, K. Leak. Evaluating a dressing impregnated with polyhexamethylene biguanide, *Wound UK* 2011, 7(2): 20-25.

Biography

Kathleen Leak is a independent nurse specialist who has worked in many fields of care for 46 years. Wound care has become a passion for her, and she enjoys teaching and watching young talent develop and adopt innovative practices in new medical sectors. She worked for the NHS and won several national awards for improving practice. Recently, she worked with an American company developing innovation NPWT allowing increased use both in the human and Veterinary fields.

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