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## Enhancing the proper application of topical negative pressure / vacuum assisted closure therapy

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**Statement of the Problem:** It was noted that improper application of topical negative pressure therapy (TNPT)/vacuum assisted closure (VAC) therapy leads to a higher incidence of morbidities in surgical patients, along with increased length of stay and financial loss to the patient and hospital. Researcher reported that TNPT/VAC therapy is helping to heal different types of open wounds. However, the proper application's perspective has not been previously studied. The purpose of this study is to increase awareness regarding proper application of TNPT/VAC therapy so that morbidities are minimized. A survey was done to study the effectiveness of this implementation.

**Methodology & Theoretical Orientation:** Cases with TNPT/VAC application were randomly sampled and the complications of TNPT/VAC therapy were studied by the clinical review program team, Singapore General Hospital. A fish bone diagram was constructed by identifying the root causes. A guide card was developed based on these findings together with inputs from wound care nurses and other healthcare professionals and was implemented. Post implementation survey was conducted to evaluate the usefulness of the card and effectiveness of this implementation. Post implementation data was studied by random sampling of TNPT/VAC therapy cases to compare the complication rates.

**Findings:** There was noted to be a reduction in TNPT/VAC therapy complications after introduction of the guide card for TNPT/VAC therapy. The utilization of the guide card improved education and increased awareness regarding proper practices ensuring patient safety and clinical standards in the organization.

**Conclusion & Significance:** The guide card was a useful tool for increasing the awareness of clinical staff regarding proper practices for application of topical negative pressure therapy/vacuum assisted closure therapy and resulted in minimizing complications following the therapy.

### Biography

Tun Tun Kyaw has his expertise in evaluation and passion ensuring patient safety in various aspects and improving quality healthcare. His initiatives and implemented work processes on patient safety and focus clinical review in aspects of both reactive and predictive scopes creates new pathways promoting patient safety. He had built the clinical review team to monitor hospital incurred adverse events after years of experience in adverse event study. He also involved in many quality improvement projects and initiatives both in the hospital and the medical schools. It allowed him to gain much experience for further exploration of knowledge as well as processes guarding patient safety and clinical standards in the organization.

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