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The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: [patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk) if you would like a reference list.

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# Wound debridement using *Versajet* (page 1 of 2)

Please read this leaflet together with advice from your nurse or doctor.

## What is wound debridement?

Chronic wounds often have a film of unhealthy tissue (slough) which prevents the wound from healing. Debridement is term used for the removal of this tissue from the wound bed.

Slough can be removed with dressings, but this is usually a lengthy process and sometimes it is not possible. Other treatments such as maggot therapy or sharp debridement (cutting off the slough down to healthy tissue) under a general anaesthetic, may be considered. Versajet is an alternative option.

## What is the Versajet?

It is a machine that uses water to remove unhealthy tissue from an ulcer.

## How does Versajet work?

It works by passing a very fine jet of water over the wound between two openings on the hand held instrument. This creates a vacuum which lifts the unhealthy and dead tissue from the wound bed.

Your clothes will be protected from the water. It would be helpful if you wore either loose trousers or a skirt.

You may be in the department for two hours, although the procedure itself does not take that long.

## Why are wounds debrided?

The unhealthy tissue attracts bacteria which causes infection and therefore delays healing.

## Why has Versajet been selected to treat my wound?

Other methods of debridement may have been used without success. After assessment of your medical history and the wound itself, your clinician has identified that your wound is suitable for this type of debridement.

**Vascular & Diabetes Unit**  
**Tel. 01722 429210**



## **What can I expect after the treatment?**

The wound will probably appear larger.

The wound bed will consist of red healthy looking tissue which may bleed. Dressings will be used to treat this. The amount of unhealthy tissue and debris should be reduced.

After the debridement treatment it is expected that wound healing will progress normally. Sometimes the procedure has to be repeated.

## **Are painkillers needed during or after the treatment?**

It is unlikely, but this can be discussed with the clinician. Entonox (gas and air) is available in the department should you need this. If you normally need pain killers before your dressings are changed, please take your medication in time for this to be effective at the time of your appointment.

## **Looking after the wound following treatment with the Versajet**

In order to reduce the risk of infection your wound needs to be kept clean and dry. A special dressing is used to achieve this. After three days you will need to make an appointment with your usual nurse to have the area around the wound checked for signs of infection.

Please look for the following signs which may indicate wound infection:

- redness/ colour change
- heat
- swelling
- offensive smell
- the dressing becoming wet or fluid leaking from the dressing
- pain.

If you notice any of these signs you need to contact us.

## **Who to contact**

If you require any advice or are worried about your wound please contact:

Vascular & Diabetes Unit: Telephone 01722 429210

You may have to leave a message but we will return your call as soon as possible. If you feel you need urgent advice, please contact your surgery, the out-of-hours service or NHS Direct on 111 or 0845 46 47.