

Wound Management

Discuss the following questions.

- What is your experience of wound management?
- What treatments are you familiar with?
- What are some of the complications that can occur with wound healing?

Read the conversation between Sophie, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Ali, a Ward Nurse, and answer the following questions.

Sophie: Hi.

Ali: Hi, Sophie. Thanks for coming up to the ward. It's about Mr. Jones in bed five. Would you mind giving me some advice on his wound care management?

Sophie: Yeah, sure. Can you fill me in on his past history first?

Ali: Right. Mr. Jones is a 68 year old smoker with a long history of PVD. He developed a venous ulcer on his right ankle after he tripped on some stairs at the back of his house. That was about six months ago. His local doctor had a look at it and asked the district nurses to come and dress the wound at home. They've been dressing the wound three times a week. At that stage it was hoped that he could avoid coming into hospital. He lives with his wife who needs quite a lot of help as she has chronic asthma. It puts quite a lot of strain on her if he has to be hospitalized.

Sophie: Right, that's difficult, isn't it? Obviously the ulcer didn't improve at home, so what happened next?

Ali: Two weeks ago, he was admitted to this ward to have an assessment of his circulation and to monitor his wound management. He had a Doppler test done, last week which indicated poor blood circulation in his lower legs. He's also been spiking temperatures and the surrounding skin of the wound has become quite reddened. We sent a wound swab off, and we just got the results yesterday. Of course, he's growing a few bugs so he's started on some IV antibiotics. We're unsure of the best wound management for him. What would you recommend that we change to?

Sophie: Let me have a look at the wound and we'll see what the best option is.

- Why has Ali asked Sophie to come to the Ward?
- What kind of wound does Mr Jones have?
- How long has he been in hospital this admission?

Match the beginnings (1-5) to the endings (a-e) to complete the questions.

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| a) Would you mind | 1) that we change to |
| b) What would you recommend | 2) use? |
| c) What do you think | 3) giving me some advice on his wound care management? |
| d) What do you suggest we | 4) to try that instead of the dressing they're using now? |
| e) Do you think it's a good idea | 5) I should do with this ulcer? |

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Match the sentences from the previous exercise to the most likely responses.

Well, I think the first thing to do is to reassess the wound.

I'd like to use a VAC dressing on this wound.

No, not at all. That's what I'm here for.

Let me have a look at the wound and we'll see what the best option is.

Yes. I think it'll help the wound heal faster.

Match the medical terms and abbreviations (1-7) to their meanings (a-g).

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| 1) CNS | a) Microbes |
| 2) PVD | b) Ultrasound device which measures blood flow through arteries and veins |
| 3) Doppler | c) Have episodes of pyrexia |
| 4) Bugs | d) Antibiotics which are given through a vein |
| 5) Spike a temperature | e) Vacuum Assisted Closure; also pronounced vac |
| 6) IV ABs | f) Clinical Nurse Specialist |
| 7) VAC | g) Peripheral Vascular Disease |