

+ Evidence in focus

Publication summary: McCluskey P, et al. JCN (2020)*

PICO[◇] Single Use Negative Pressure Therapy System (sNPWT) reduced dressing change frequency, provided estimated cost savings compared with standard care and was most effective in hard-to-heal wounds of less than three months in duration

+ Plus points

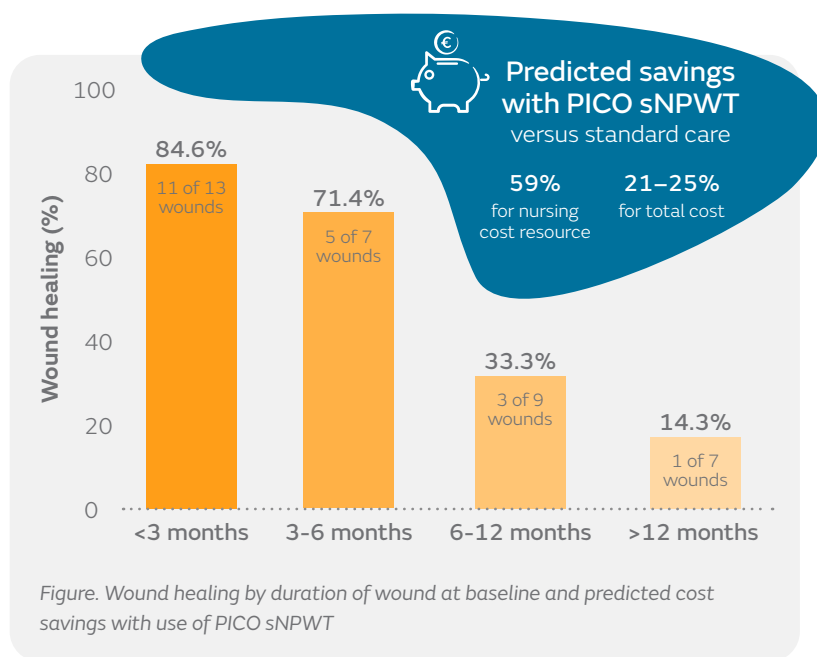


Overview

- A service evaluation at seven centres in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
- Wound healing and health economic impact (in UK sterling and Euros) of using PICO sNPWT on hard-to-heal wounds over 12 weeks (or until healing) were assessed
- Median wound duration was 3–6 months; 36 wounds were included
- Eligible patients had:
 - Wounds >6 weeks in duration with no signs of clinical infection
 - <10% per week wound area reduction over 4 weeks
 - No NPWT in the last 6 weeks or contraindications for NPWT
 - Ankle-brachial pressure index (ABPI) >0.8 and <1.3 for venous leg ulcers

Results

- Using PICO sNPWT, 20 of 36 wounds healed within 12 weeks (55.6%)
 - Mean healing time was 6.95 weeks
- Wound healing rate was greater for wounds with <3 months duration than those with ≥ 3 months duration (84.6 vs 71.4%; $p = 0.0125$; Figure)
- Improvements in mean wound area per week with PICO sNPWT (-16.8%) continued after use (-18.9%)
- Dressing changes per week were less frequent with PICO sNPWT versus standard care (1.75 vs 3.56 changes; $p < 0.001$)
 - They were also less frequent in the post PICO sNPWT phase (1.95 vs 3.56 changes per week; $p < 0.001$)
- Use of PICO sNPWT was predicted to reduce costs versus standard care (Figure):
 - Total costs by 25% (£15,467) and 21% (€12,001)
 - Nursing resource costs by 59% (£31,494 and €27,517)



Conclusions

In patients with hard-to-heal wounds, PICO sNPWT was most effective for wounds of <3 months in duration, helped to reduce dressing change frequency and was predicted to reduce nursing resource costs compared with standard care.

Citation

*McCluskey P, Brennan K, Mullan J, et al. Impact of a single-use negative pressure wound therapy system on healing. JCN. 2020;34:36–43. Available at: [Journal of Community Nursing](#)

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