

Caring for Your Incision Using Vacuum Assisted Closure™ Therapy With a Prevena Dressing



Hospital: _____

Unit Contact Telephone: _____

Surgeon: _____

Surgeon's Office Telephone: _____



What is Vacuum Assisted Closure™ Therapy?

This therapy (also known as V.A.C.®) uses suction to help your incision heal.

Negative pressure wound therapy:

- removes fluid from your incision
- protects your incision from germs
- gently pulls the edges of your incision closer together

Before you leave the hospital, a nurse teaches you how to look after your incision and the machine.

Is it painful?

You might feel a slight pulling or tugging sensation in your incision. . This goes away as you get used to it. Let your nurse know if you feel any pain.

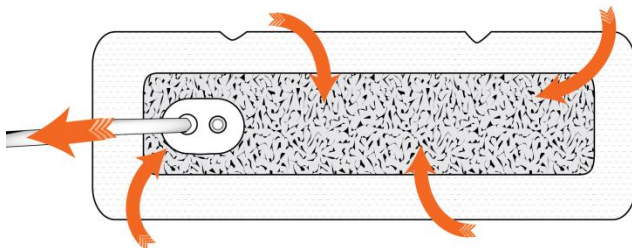
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How does the V.A.C.[®] machine and Prevena[™] dressing work?

It works by creating a vacuum effect (negative pressure) on the surface of your incision.

Once the surgeon has finished your surgery and your incision is closed, the surgeon places the special dressing on your incision and connects it to the V.A.C.[®] machine.

With the machine is turned on, it creates suction under the dressing. As the machine sucks out the air from under the dressing, the dressing starts to shrink.



As fluid drains from your incision, this fluid is sucked up into the dressing and then into the canister in the machine. You can see the canister by looking at the back of the machine.

Does the machine have to be on all the time?

Yes, the machine must be on at all times for it to help heal your incision.

Sometimes it is okay to stop and disconnect from the machine for **short periods of time**. Your nurse will tell you when you can do this and how long you can be disconnected from the machine.

Can I shower or bath with the Prevena™ dressing on my incision?

It depends on where your incision is located. Water can loosen the dressing from your skin.

If your surgeon says it is okay, you can take quick, light showers. However, you cannot take a bath while the Prevena dressing is on.






If you are allowed to shower:






1. Before your shower, remove the machine from its carrying case (if you have one).
2. When in the shower, protect the special dressing and machine from direct spray of water.
3. After your shower, gently dry around the dressing. Be careful not to disturb the edges of the dressing.

When will my dressing be removed?

Your surgeon decides when and where your dressing is removed. Before you go home from the hospital, we give you an appointment to see your surgeon.

What to do when the V.A.C.[®] alarms goes off?

Alert...	What to do...
Solid green light above the On/Off button 	→Do nothing. The machine is working correctly.
1 beep plus 1 solid yellow light under caution symbol 	→Check all connections for leaks. →Press firmly around the dressing edge. →If there is an air leak in the dressing, you can repair the leak but only if you have been shown how to do this by the nurse.
2 beeps plus 1 solid yellow light under caution symbol 	→Check the back of the machine to see if the canister full. →If it is not full, check for pinched or kinked tubing. →If near full or full, turn the machine off and call your surgeon.
Slow beep plus 1 solid yellow light under battery symbol 	→Change batteries within the next 6 hours.
Rapid beep plus 1 solid yellow light under battery symbol 	→Change batteries right away.

Alert...	What to do...
<p>Repeated beep increasing in volume plus</p> <p>2 solid yellow lights:</p> <p>1 under caution symbol </p> <p>1 under battery symbol </p>	<p>→ Hold the 'On/Off' button for 5 seconds.</p> <p>→ Press and hold the 'On/Off' button for 2 seconds.</p> <p>→ If this does not stop the alarm, call your surgeon.</p>
<p>Repeated beep for 15 seconds plus</p> <p>3 solid yellow lights:</p> <p>1 under caution symbol </p> <p>1 under battery symbol </p> <p>1 under audio pause symbol </p> <p>Then machine shuts off</p>	<p>→ The machine has finished.</p> <p>→ Call your surgeon.</p> <p>→ Arrange to have the dressing removed within 24 hours.</p>

To change the batteries:

- Hold the 'On/Off' button for 5 seconds.
- Press and push the battery cover open and remove the old batteries.
- Insert 3 new AA batteries (lithium preferred).
- Replace the cover.
- Press and hold the 'On/Off' button for 2 seconds.

What if I cannot stop the alarm?

- Call your surgeon.
- If you cannot contact your surgeon, call KCI Technical Support. (This is the company that makes the V.A.C.[®] machine).

1-800-668-5403

Stay on the line. Your call will be forwarded to their technical support voicemail. Leave a message. They will return your call within the hour.

- If you cannot contact your surgeon or KCI Technical Support:
 - Turn off the machine.
 - Go to the nearest Emergency Department.
 - Tell the emergency provider to contact your surgeon right away.

Always bring this booklet with you when you go to any of these locations about your dressing:

- your family doctor's
- your surgeon's
- your nearest Emergency Department

When to contact your surgeon

Contact your surgeon anytime you notice:

- A sudden increase in pain around your incision.
- Your skin around the incision is red, swollen, and warm to the touch.
- A very bad smell coming from your incision.
- You have a fever over 38.5°C (101.3F).
- A sudden increase in the amount of fluid in the canister.

When to go to Emergency right away or call 9-1-1

Any time the dressing **fills with bright red fluid in less than 2 hours:**

1. Leave the dressing in place.
2. Turn off the machine by pressing the orange button.
3. Put pressure over the dressing to help stop the bleeding.
4. Go to the nearest Emergency Department right away or call 9-1-1.

www.fraserhealth.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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To order: <https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca>