

# VACUTEX™

Rapid capillary action dressing for difficult to heal wounds.



Designed for patients...,  
tailored by nurses.

## Educational Manual

# “Vacutex is a Multi-directional Accelerated Capillary Action dressing to be used on difficult to heal wounds with moderate or heavy exudate and slough.”

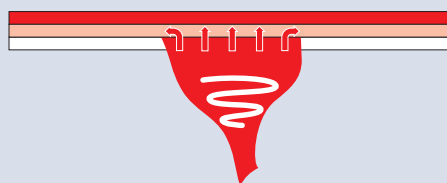
## The mechanism of a capillary action dressing

Capillary action dressings are particularly useful in cases of moderate or heavily exuding wounds, where the slough can be thick and fatty. In these cases you need to remove excess wound fluid or exudate from the wound whilst still maintaining adequate moisture for the wound healing process. Often, wounds can be more complicated to care for, because they can be irregularly shaped, situated at difficult to treat places on the body, or they can be deep or undermined. VACUTEX is a perfect combination between both a capillary action dressing and a draining action.

### The capillary action component of VACUTEX:

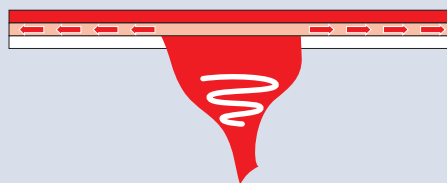
#### 1. ABSORBING

Wound fluid (exudate) is absorbed from the wound bed by VACUTEX. For deep (crater) wounds or for undermined wounds, a ribbon, a stack or even a patchwork of the VACUTEX dressing may be used as packing to absorb the fluid from the wound bed. VACUTEX takes the exudate away from the wound by accelerated capillary action.



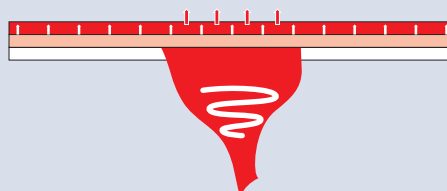
#### 2. DRAINING

By means of lateral wicking, the absorbed fluid is spread in the central layer of VACUTEX, where the wound contact surface remains non-adherent and almost dry. In this way, the fluid is no longer able to macerate the wound borders when the dressing is wet.



#### 3. WICKING AND REMOVAL

When the central wicking layer is saturated, the excess fluid is transferred to the third layer and from there it can be absorbed by a secondary dressing.



**SPECIAL NOTE:** This brochure was made in close cooperation with nurses from several countries from all over the world. Special thanks to all TVNs and wound specialists that shared their own past and present experiences with us. All pictures used in this document are copyright Protex Healthcare and Astrid Probst (Reutlingen, Germany).

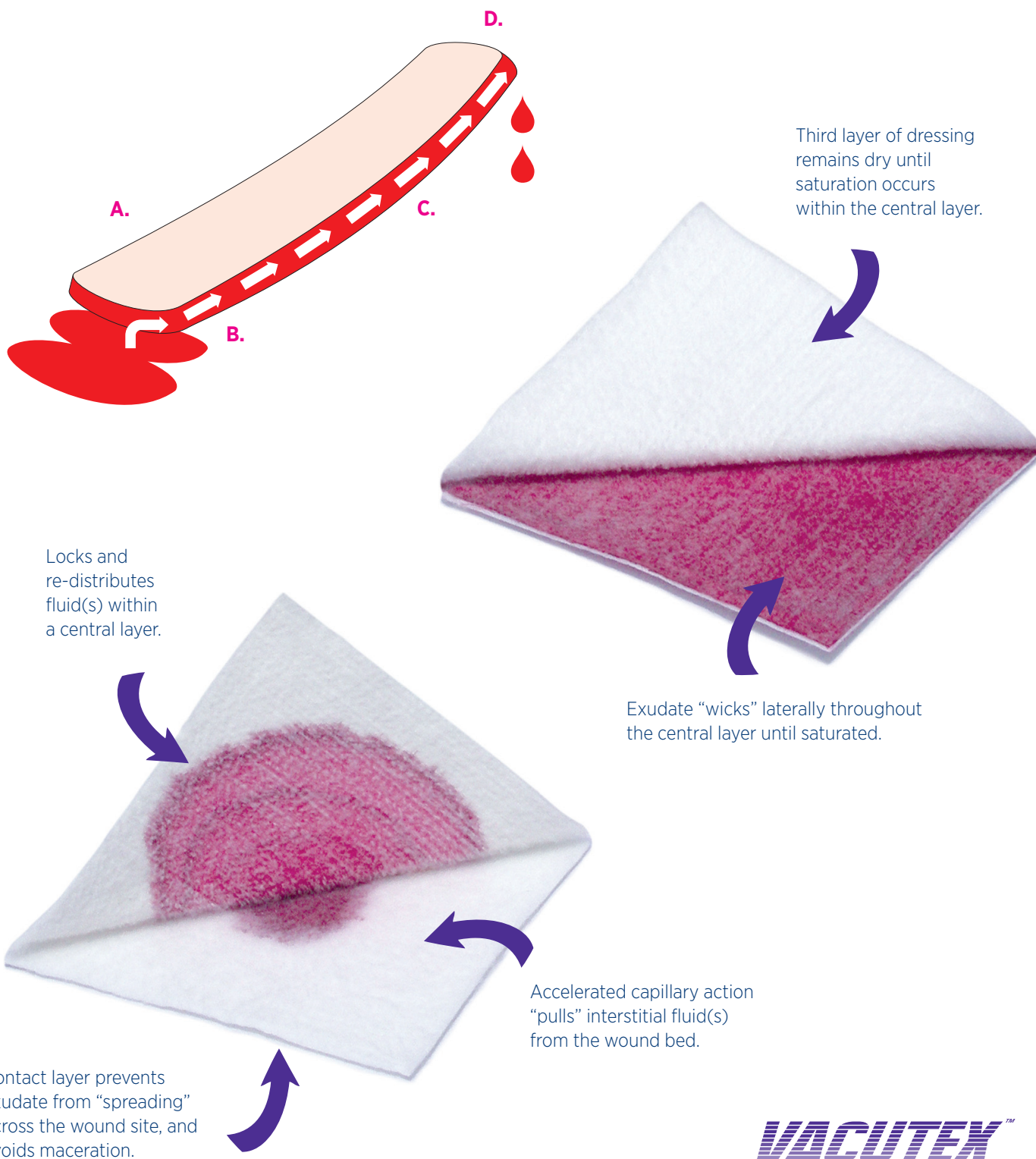
The Protex Healthcare team  
For more detailed information: [info@protexhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@protexhealthcare.co.uk)

### The draining action component of VACUTEX:

- A.** VACUTEX can be cut into ribbons or smaller, stacked pieces according to the wound size, and inserted into the wound without leaving fibers or wound dressing parts.
- B.** Absorption of the exudate from the wound pulls the fluid into the central layer of the VACUTEX dressing.
- C.** Fluid is wicked away from the wound and transported to the VACUTEX dressing.
- D.** The fabric surface in contact with the wound bed remains almost dry, whilst the fluid travels vertically in the central layer, where it can be collected (“managed”) on delivery from the wound.

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- 6-7. Hints & Tips on the use of Vacutex
- 8. General company information, order codes and sizes



**VACUTEX™**

# VACUTEX, capillary action dressings

Protex Healthcare Ltd is committed to providing one of the highest levels of clinical and educational support to healthcare professionals, in order to maximise the potential of VACUTEX for the provision of quality patient care in difficult to heal and heavy or moderately exudating wounds.

## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

VACUTEX is a capillary action dressing nursing tool, and is listed within the NHS Supplies Agency as a separate category of advanced wound dressing as:

“Capillary Dressings – low adherence” (see NHSSA codes on back page of this document)

- VACUTEX contains no additives or drugs and causes no known adverse reactions.
- VACUTEX can be used from both sides of the dressing. Once put on the wound, the capillary action is activated and becomes one-directional.
- The patented innovative three-layered construction of polyester filaments and poly/cotton fibres causes an accelerated capillary ‘pulling’ action on wound interfaces, lifting, transporting exudate and interstitial fluid(s) to a central ‘locking’ layer until saturation, and then on to a third absorbent layer.
- The concept behind this advanced wound dressing is to lift and transport potentially bacteria-laden exudate, slough and liquid necrotic debris away from the wound bed.
- VACUTEX creates autolysis within the wound environment that quickly breaks down and lifts slough and liquid necrotic debris. It does not remove dry necrosis.
- VACUTEX can absorb up to 30 times its own weight. <sup>(1)</sup>
- VACUTEX can be combined with secondary dressings, including super absorbers and will not macerate the wound border which would slow down wound healing.
- As no two wounds are the same, VACUTEX can be designed to suit each individual patient’s wound type, and is used as an extension of nursing skills, to design the ideal dressing for each patient’s needs.

VACUTEX is a range of wound dressings, creating a platform to support wound healing.

VACUTEX offers a two pronged strategy, either allowing the swift and easy application of standard wound dressings, which will encourage wound healing in the vast majority of cases, or also allowing a creative and skilled platform for wound care professionals to deal with those less responsive wounds. Protex Healthcare offers these professionals a fascinating series of product “techniques” (applications) to help patients recovery.

VACUTEX creates an excellent environment for medical and wound care professionals to deliver their wound healing skills. <sup>(2)</sup>

The simple to use, unique, patented and innovative dressing, has a multitude of uses on acute and chronic wounds, and has shown over the last years to be extremely effective. “The use of VACUTEX is excellent value for money.” <sup>(2)</sup>

Protex Healthcare Ltd is committed to providing education and clinical support to users of Vacutex, through our experienced clinical management and nurse advisory team throughout the UK and abroad.

The main focus of support is to advise on the use of VACUTEX and, when requested, assists users in the care and management of wounds with VACUTEX, for the ultimate benefit of patients and nursing staff.

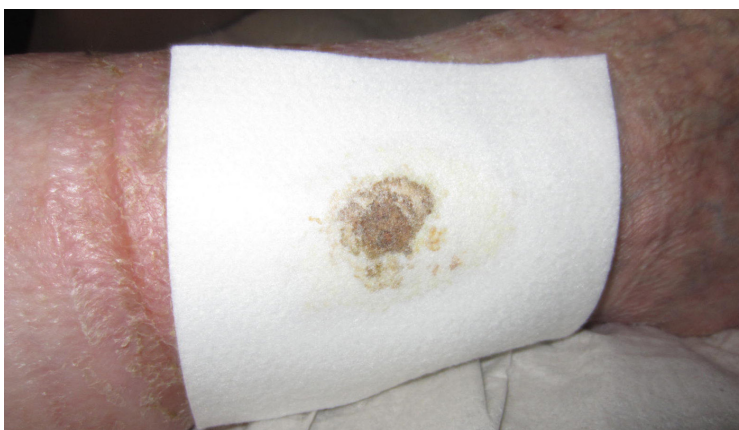
This manual illustrates a “step-by-step” method of maximising the benefits of VACUTEX for many common and complex wound types.

In a separate addendum of this manual, the uses of VACUTEX for different wound types is explained, giving also more background information about the why, how and when of the different case-studies.

VACUTEX is a valuable component of today’s modern wound care market and complementary to NPWT therapy, both in hospitals and in home wound care.

<sup>(1)</sup> Tested in vitro October 2015.

<sup>(2)</sup> Deeth M, (2002) Review of an independent audit into the clinical efficacy of Vacutex. BJN, 2002 (Supplement) Vol 11, No 12





VACUTEX dressings are particularly useful in the following wound care applications.\*

## VACUTEX: WOUND CARE IN ACTION

### 1. Moderate to heavily exuding wounds:

In case of high exudate levels: apply VACUTEX to wound shape and cover with suitable size outer layer to absorb exudate. Secure with film.

### 2. Wounds with thick adherent slough:

Cut VACUTEX to the shape of the wound depth, cover with outer layer and secure with semi-occlusive film. Change daily until slough removal.

### 3. Deep, irregular or crater wounds:

In case of high exudate levels in deeper, irregular or crater wounds: Cut VACUTEX to wound shape, and stack two or more layers of VACUTEX to fill the wound. Secure with semi-occlusive film.

Apply non-adherent contact layer to wound shape and cut VACUTEX in strips or spirals to fill the wound space. Cover with outer layer of VACUTEX with suitable size to absorb exudate. VACUTEX can be cut into a wick/ribbon which can also be used to drain excess exudate into the dressing pouch for collection..

### 4. Difficult to access wounds:

VACUTEX is particularly useful for dressing wounds both in sensitive and in difficult to access areas of the body.



### Other wounds appropriate for VACUTEX:

- Pressure ulcers
- Venous Leg ulcers
- Arterial Leg ulcers
- Dehisced abdominal wounds
- Cardiac surgery graft sites
- Sternal wounds
- Faciotomy wounds
- Amputations
- Trauma
- Necrotising Fasciitis
- Epidermolysis bullosa
- Burns
- Mastectomy
- Drain sites
- Tracheostomies
- Lacerations
- Bites and stings
- Haematoma
- Stoma wounds
- Bullous ulcers
- Burton ulcers

### CONTRA INDICATIONS:

- Arterial bleeds
- Dynamic vascular fungating wounds
- Heavily bleeding wounds
- Wounds where bone and/or tendon are exposed, use with extreme caution and apply non adherent contact layer.

### WARNING:

Please be aware that VACUTEX is a low adherent dressing, but becomes an adherent dressing when the wound is no longer moist. In case of low exuding wounds, line the wound bed first with a non-adherent dressing.

\* For further information or assistance: please contact the nurse advisory team on [info@protexhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@protexhealthcare.co.uk).

# Hints and tips on the use of VACUTEX to make it your tailor-made dressing.

## Sacral wounds

Sacral areas are cut to a “triangle” or “heart” shape, with additional slits. This allows for a comfortable “excellent” fit dressing even for difficult wound sites



## Joints

For knees, ankles, elbows etc, fold the dressing in half (lengthways) and cut almost across the width. This method is ideal as a primary or secondary layer for mobile joints.



## Crater wounds

For crater shapes or deeper undermining wounds a “spiral” shape will provide good contact with the wound bed. Simply cut as illustrated.

Further strips may be applied to completely fill the area and deal with copious amounts of exudate. Cover with film to contain exudate.



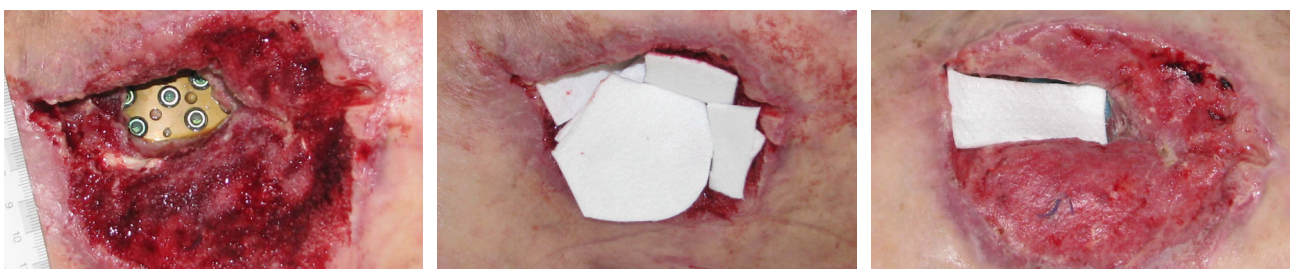
## Irregular and deep wounds

VACUTEX can also be applied by cutting ‘disc’ shapes and built up within an irregular shaped wound site, with a final outer layer applied over the whole area. Care should be taken when selecting the method of applying shaped VACUTEX dressings, so as not to further compromise any pressure damage. Three major hints for this are:

- If the wound is to be prevented from closing the VACUTEX dressing should be cut to a smaller size than the wound itself.

- VACUTEX is particularly useful for dressing wounds in uncomfortable areas of the body or in irregularly shaped wounds. You can cut and stack several pieces/ layers of VACUTEX above each other, in order to take the capillary action up to the surface of deeper wounds.

- For bigger wounds, several VACUTEX dressings can be “patch worked” on top of each other. As long as they are in contact with each other, the wicking will work. The overlap between the different dressings should at least be 2 centimetres.



## Draining – Diverting sinuses

VACUTEX can be used to drain sinuses, or to divert exudate away from the wound site. Using sharp scissors, cut a suitable width of the dressing as a wick/ribbon, and insert loosely into the sinus track. The wick can then be placed between two VACUTEX layers to transport and contain fluid(s) and secured with an appropriate semi-occlusive film or bandage. Until complete saturation, no fluid will contact the skin as the exudate is held in the central layer of the dressing. Change when the top layer is almost saturated for optimum results. Daily inspection of the wick is important as rapid granulation is normally achieved with this method of draining sinuses.



## Dressing pouch – as a Drain

The VACUTEX dressing pouch can be used as an ideal method of collecting fluid(s). Place a wick/ribbon between the two dressings in the pouch (approximately 4 – 5 cm is sufficient). The fluid/exudate will be “pulled” into the pouch and contained. Until complete saturation, the fluids collected are locked into the dressings and will not spill, drip, or leak. When fluids appear at the bottom of the pouch, the dressings are “full”. The unique action of VACUTEX will also allow for draining wounds vertically if required (i.e. the drain pouch above the wound site, but will drip when “full”).

In order not to compromise infection control, it is advisable to cover any portion of an exposed wick/ribbon with a suitable film, when using this method of draining.



## Does VACUTEX prevent maceration to the surrounding skin?

Yes, the construction of VACUTEX is specially designed to prevent any maceration to the peri-wound area unlike other advanced wound care products.

## Can VACUTEX be used under pressure therapy?

Yes, VACUTEX has sufficient retention capacity to keep the exudate in the dressing under normal wound pressure bandages used for the treatment of chronic wounds.

## Can VACUTEX be used on infected wounds?

Yes, VACUTEX can be combined with an anti-microbial agent on top of infected wounds. Because of its rapid capillary action, VACUTEX will pull part of the infected exudate or slough away from the wound and isolate this in its second layer of the dressing. VACUTEX on its own however, is not a full anti-microbial therapy.

## Does VACUTEX adhere to the wound bed?

No. VACUTEX is a low adherent dressing. When the wound is judged to be dry, a non adherent dressing (such as VACUNET) should be placed under VACUTEX to further use the strength of its capillary action.

## How should VACUTEX be affixed to the wound area?

VACUTEX should be fixed to the wound by using a suitable semi occlusive film, surgical tape or cotton bandages depending upon the indication and location of the wound.

## Is VACUTEX expensive?

No. VACUTEX is less expensive than most of the other advanced wound care dressings. Good opportunities exist for cost savings for clinicians who use VACUTEX, both in product cost and in reduced nursing time.<sup>(1)</sup>

## Can VACUTEX be used on tracheostomy sites

Tracheostomy sites can be the cause of excoriation to the surrounding skin. VACUTEX can be cut as appropriate around the tube. Change when almost saturated.

## Can VACUTEX be used on Stomasites

Stoma-sites can be very difficult to manage and can also present excoriation difficulties for patients and can be protected using the applicable shape(s). Select the appropriate size(s) for absorption. Change when almost saturated.

<sup>(1)</sup> Deeth M, (2002) Review of an independent audit into the clinical efficacy of Vacutex. BJN, 2002 (Supplement) Vol 11, No 12



# VACUTEX Is available in an adequate range of sizes, suitable for most wound care applications.

Product/order codes	Size	Amount of dressings	
		per pouch	per sales unit
VAC005005	2 x 2 inch	1 dressing/pouch	10 dressings
VAC010010	4 x 4 inch (10 cm x 10 cm)	1 dressing/pouch	10 dressings
VAC010015	4 x 6 inch (10 cm x 15 cm)	1 dressing/pouch	10 dressings
VAC010020	4 x 8 inch (10 cm x 20 cm)	1 dressing/pouch	10 dressings



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## VACUTEX Clinical support/practical questions

VACUTEX can be used in many ways with many wound types. Protex Healthcare Ltd is committed to providing a comprehensive backup and clinical support service for healthcare professionals and wound care specialists, TVN and other healthcare professionals.

The clinical support team is not able to provide you with clinical diagnosis, but can assist you with advice on wound management with VACUTEX wound dressings, in addition to advice on comprehensive wound care and wound management programmes. Please check our website on [www.protexhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.protexhealthcare.co.uk) and register as a professional to get your free samples or to subscribe to our free case studies and access to our training videos. You can also contact us with your specific questions and we will answer you as soon as possible.

If you would like to have a presentation about our products, please contact us on [info@protexhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@protexhealthcare.co.uk) or phone our office to set up the appointment.

If you have your own interesting case study with VACUTEX, we are very interest to learn about it. Please contact us on [info@protexhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@protexhealthcare.co.uk) and we will get in touch with you. You can also download our case study template on the professional pages of our website.

The Protex Healthcare Ltd team are always striving to continuously improve the high standards of our products and to improve the solutions for the patients' needs. We therefore welcome your suggestions/ideas/remarks/questions because they can lead to improving our performance as a specialised wound care solution provider. We already thank you for this, and look forward to getting in touch with you.

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Vacutex™ is manufactured under the US Patentnr. 7,112,712

**PROTEX**  
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[www.protexhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.protexhealthcare.co.uk) - [info@protexhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@protexhealthcare.co.uk)

Innovation Centre, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6UW, UNITED KINGDOM  
☎ 0044(0) 1926 21 78 50 - F 0044(0) 1926 21 77 01