

**DR ANDREW WINES MBBS FRACS (Orth) FAOrthA**  
**Adult and Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon**  
**Foot, Ankle and Trauma Surgery**

**ANKLE REPLACEMENT – PICO DRESSING**

About your wound dressings...

At the completion of your surgical procedure Dr Wines has dressed your surgical wounds with sterile dressings.

You will notice you have a bandage wrapped around a plaster of paris cast. There will also be a small white box with a tube connected to it taped to the front of your bandage.

This small box is a vacuum pack and is connected to a 'negative pressure dressing' which will ensure the best possible wound healing.

Negative pressure dressings have a number of benefits to wound healing including a reduction in local swelling and improved rates of wound healing.

The battery pack has a single "start" button on the front of the pack as well as several indicator lights which confirm that the seal around the dressing is intact and that the pump is continuing to work. This means that there will be a flashing green light and the pack will be almost silent.

Should the indicator light turn red it may indicate a loss of suction, a broken seal or a problem with the pack. The pack may also become more audible as it attempts to recreate its seal. Should this occur within the first few days after surgery, the pump may need to be turned off. It DOES NOT need to be removed.

A fault on the battery pack does not mean that your wound healing is compromised or that the dressing needs to be changed, only that the negative pressure function has been changed to that of a standard dressing. Any ongoing wound ooze will continue to be captured by the absorptive pad keeping the surgical incision clean and dry.

At approximately the one-week mark after surgery, the battery pack for the dressing will discharge and will turn off without warning. Again, this will change the action of the dressing and is not of any concern. Continue to keep your leg clean and dry and the dressing along with the pump will be removed and changed at your two-week review with Dr Wines.

Should your pump stop working during the first few days or when the battery discharges at the one week mark and you are concerned that the dressing is not containing any excess ooze then an early wound review may be necessary. Please do not take your dressing down and do not allow your local doctor to remove the dressing. We would advise that you contact Dr Wines rooms to arrange an appointment for review.

**ANY PROBLEMS**

During office hours contact Dr Wines' office on (02) 9409 0563. After hours please contact the hospital where your surgery was performed.