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The 'Vacsplint' for Hands

A novel technique of applying negative pressure wound therapy to a hand is described. The two foam slabs are placed on the volar and dorsal surface of the hand and forearm with strips between fingers. The slabs are then stapled together from distal to proximal until the level of the interphalangeal joints (IPJ's). The metacarpophalangeal joints (MCPJ's) are then flexed to 90°, whilst keeping the interphalangeal joints (IPJ's) in extension. The dorsal foam overlying the MCPJ's shifts distally and the volar slab proximally by a few centimetres. The two slabs are stapled further in this position. The same principle can be used for wrist extension (Figure 1). The dressing is completed with adhesive occlusive drape and suction tubing. On application of suction, the differential contractile forces acting on either side of the joints (due to the different lengths of foam) result in the dressing assuming a functional position (Figure 2 and Supplementary Digital Content mmc1Video 1).

Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at doi:10.1016/j.bjps.2009.11.032

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