Wounds are breaches in the structure of the skin that compromise skin function. They can be painful and lead to additional medical complications. Wounds become chronic when they have not completed the healing process in the expected time frame, usually within 30 days. Standard wound care may not be sufficient to jump start a stalled wound; advanced wound therapies can help reduce the total cost of care and help restore a patient’s quality of life.

**treatment**

Medical technology has helped to evolve wound treatment dramatically over the past 15 years, from simple dressings to sophisticated, evidence-based options that treat and promote wound healing.6

- **Vacuum therapy** reduces emergent care
- **Cellular and/or tissue based products for wounds** promote rapid closure of diabetic foot ulcers and lead to a higher percentage of wounds closed than conventional therapy.
- **Antimicrobial dressings** act on multiple sites within microbial cells and reduce the likelihood of bacteria developing resistance.7
- **Collegen dressings** have been shown to reduce frequency of re-hospital visits and shorten wound healing time, subsequently reducing health care costs.9
- **Negative pressure wound therapy** reduces incidence of emergent care and hospitalizations for pressure ulcer patients, reduces secondary amputations for patients with diabetic foot ulcers, and reduces healing time for patients with chronic wounds.
- **Therapeutic support surfaces** have demonstrated a threshold improvement in median rate of healing, compared with foam/mattresses.14

**medtech as a solution**

Estimates indicate that wounds account for nearly 4 percent of health care system costs, and that number is rising.14

- **Lowered incidence of re-admission, additional surgical, and complications:**14
- **Reduced amputation rate:**16-17
- **Reduced healing times:**16
- **Reduced incidence of surgical dehiscence and infection:**9
- **Reduced cost of care in acute and post-acute settings:**16
- **Reduced risk of hospitalization and emergent care episodes:**18
- **Reduced total nursing time and wound related costs:**9
- **Reduced risk of repeat skin graft and associated length of hospital stay.19

**Figure 1** 5 - 7 MILLION

*Upcoming number of new cutaneous wounds each year in the United States.*

**Figure 2** $20 BILLION

*Estimated direct cost to the U.S. health care system.*

**Figure 3** 85% amputation rate

*Foot ulceration is the precursor to approximately 6 percent of lower extremity amputations in persons with diabetes.*

**Figure 4** An estimated two and a half million Americans are affected by venous leg ulcers each year, at a cost of 400,000 dollars to the health care system.8

**Figure 5** The estimated cost of managing a single full-thickness pressure ulcer is nearly $900,000.10