

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53028

Date: 29-07-2025

Title: NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY OVER CONVENTIONAL DRESSINGS - A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		YES		
Techn. Quality		YES		
Clarity			YES	
Significance			YES	

Reviewer Name: Dr Payal Adwani(PT)

Date: 29-07-2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This retrospective study evaluates the comparative effectiveness of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) versus Normal Saline Dressing (NSD) in managing chronic ulcers. The topic is clinically important and timely, especially in the context of optimizing wound care outcomes and reducing hospital stay. The manuscript is well-intentioned and presents meaningful observations, but several methodological and reporting improvements are necessary before it can be recommended for publication.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Appraisals / Strengths

1. Relevant Clinical Focus:

Wound care is a central issue in surgical practice, and the comparison of NPWT with NSD directly addresses a real-world therapeutic decision.

2. Real-World Setting:

The study was conducted in a government hospital with AYUSHMAN scheme coverage, making the findings applicable to public health settings.

3. Clear Objective and Outcome Measures:

Hospital stay and granulation tissue coverage are clearly stated as primary outcomes and are measured in a quantifiable manner.

4. Well-Defined Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:

The study appropriately excludes confounding wound types such as malignancies and osteomyelitis, improving internal validity.

5. Use of Visual Evidence:

Images showing wound progression offer compelling visual support for the effectiveness of NPWT.

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6. Ethical Sensitivity in Study Design:

Since the study is retrospective and anonymized, it minimizes ethical risks, although formal IRB clearance is not mentioned.

7. Simplicity and Accessibility:

The manuscript is written in a way that is easy to understand for clinicians, making it suitable for general surgical or community health journals.

Critiques / Limitations

1. Retrospective Nature and Bias Risk:

Being a retrospective study, it inherently lacks randomization or control for confounding variables such as wound depth, comorbidities, and concurrent medications.

2. No Statistical Testing Reported:

Though differences in hospital stay and granulation percentage are highlighted, there is no use of inferential statistics (e.g., t-test, chi-square) to determine significance.

3. Sample Size Justification Lacks Transparency:

While it mentions an online calculator was used, the parameters (effect size, power, confidence level) are not reported.

4. Granulation Measurement Subjectivity:

The measurement of granulation as a percentage could vary between observers; no mention of standardized assessment methods or blinding is made.

5. No Baseline Comparison Between Groups:

There is no information on whether NPWT and NSD groups were comparable in terms of ulcer size, etiology, or baseline granulation.

6. Insufficient Discussion Depth:

While the study references literature, the discussion does not critically engage with findings from larger trials or systematic reviews.

7. No Cost-Effectiveness Analysis:

The study touches upon the cost barrier to NPWT but does not provide quantitative data or economic analysis to support its statement.

8. Figures Lack Captions and Statistical Annotations:

Visuals are included but are not fully labeled or referenced in the text in a scholarly format. No legends, scales, or units are shown on graphs.

9. Ethical Approval Not Mentioned:

Although it's a retrospective study, confirmation of ethical clearance or waiver should be included.

10. Typographical and Formatting Issues:

There are inconsistencies in phrasing (e.g., "was used at negative 125 mmHg of pressure maintained at 1 hour ON and 1 hour OFF cycle...") that need editing for clarity and flow.