

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY  
**life changing  
innovation**

QUALITY OF LIFE  
**Wound Care**

The medical technology industry is continually advancing and developing new innovations that improve the health and well-being of patients worldwide.

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.<sup>1</sup>

An estimated **5 to 7 million episodes** of non-healing cutaneous wounds occur **each year in the U.S.**, and **\$20 billion** is spent annually to treat them.<sup>2,3</sup>

Failure of a wound to heal can have a profound effect on a patient's quality of life. However, 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.<sup>4</sup> Patient benefits include:

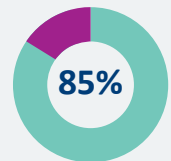
- Lowered incidence of readmission, additional surgeries, and complications;<sup>5</sup>
- Reduced amputation rates;<sup>6,7</sup>
- Reduced healing times;<sup>8</sup> and
- Reduced incidence of surgical dehiscence and infection.<sup>9</sup>



**Cost and Incidence**

**The cost and incidence of chronic wounds** is increasing, due in part to the aging of the population, increased prevalence of diabetes, and rising obesity. Advanced wound therapies not only restore a patient's quality of life, but can also help reduce the total cost of care.

Foot ulceration is the precursor to approximately **85 percent** of lower extremity amputations in people with diabetes.<sup>10</sup>



The estimated cost of managing a **single full-thickness pressure ulcer** is nearly **\$70,000**.<sup>11</sup>

An estimated



**2.5 million  
Americans**

are affected by venous leg ulcers each year, at a cost of **\$14.9 billion** to the health care system.<sup>12</sup>

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6. Armstrong DG, Lavery L. Negative pressure wound therapy after partial diabetic foot amputation: a multicenter, randomized controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2005; 12 366(9498): 1704-10.
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