Case report: DermaClose therapy after VAC helps close large sternal wound resulting from oncologic excision and subsequent sternal wound infection.

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Case Report #47

Prior to application of DermaClose: A 40-year-old male patient presented from an outside hospital with metastatic papillary thyroid cancer requiring further resection, radical neck dissection, and a redo of a sternotomy due to sternal wound infection with C. koseri. The sternal resection caused a tissue deficit measuring 26 cm x 9 cm x 5.5 cm. Prior to application of DermaClose the patient underwent VAC negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) for 9 days.

DermaClose application: After the DermaClose device was applied the patient’s wound measured 26 cm x 2.5 cm x 5.5 cm. The wound margins were undermined 2 cm circumferentially to facilitate tissue expansion with DermaClose. After 2 days, patient returned to the OR for NPWT exchange and two DermaClose devices were reapplied.

Removal of DermaClose: 7 days after the second application of DermaClose and NPWT the DermaClose device was removed. Immediately after removal the wound measured 23 cm x 3 cm x 1 cm. Patient continued with NWPT for 1 additional week and was then returned to the OR for final closure. The patient experienced moderate pain (4 – 6 on a scale of 10) during NPWT dressing changes but was otherwise pain free.

Follow-up: At his 2 week follow up, patient underwent CT scan where a small seroma was observed but required no action. Retention sutures were removed. At his 6 week follow up he maintained full closure and required no further follow up.

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