The Many Uses of Collagen

We know that collagen is a protein that gives cells tensile strength and plays a significant role in all phases of wound healing. We also know that it encourages debridement, angiogenesis and re-epithelialization by attracting fibroblasts and keratinocytes in the bed of an open wound and can be used in stage 3, 4 and unstageable pressure wounds or any other type of full thickness wound. **But did you also know…**

**Collagen sheets are very effective when used in conjunction with negative pressure wound therapy.**

*Place the collagen sheet in the wound bed and proceed with the usual application of NPWT.*

**Applying collagen at the onset of a full thickness skin tear will increase healing rates.**

*A secondary dressing such as a foam or bordered gauze should be used in conjunction with the collagen.*

**Using collagen particles with plain packing gauze in tunneling wounds will promote faster healing.**

*Lightly wet the packing gauze with saline and sprinkle the particles on the gauze prior to gently packing in the tunnel/undermining area. Particles are absorbed and can stay in the wound.*

**Collagen used on hard to heal venous leg ulcers in conjunction with an absorbent secondary dressing under compression therapy has been shown to increase granulation tissue formation by 65%.*

**Applying collagen particles to a wound bed before applying Santyl will increase granulation tissue growth and encourage faster re-epithelialization.**

**Remember:** You can use collagen on lightly exuding wounds, but lightly moistening the collagen with saline first will help the collagen absorb into the wound much more quickly.

**Sources:**