

# Use of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy to Treat Exposed Wounds of the Cranium

Ye-Ping Zhou MD, Department of Surgery, Peking University Health Sciences Center, Beijing, PRC; Michael S. Miller DO, The Wound Healing Center, Terre Haute, IN

The patient is a 55 year old farmer who developed a large erosive mass of the head from working outside without head protection. The mass grew larger until he began to develop bleeding and pain in the area. He presented electively to the outpatient surgery clinic at the Peking University Health Science Center, Evaluation revealed a large Squamous Cell Carcinoma with no evidence of metastases. He underwent complete excision including the outer table of skull with a scalp flap and skin grafting to close the resulting wounds. Unfortunately the grafts and flaps did not take completely leaving areas of exposed bone and a sub muscular tunnel (See arrows picture 3) . The patient subsequently underwent debridement of the necrotic portions of the flaps, grafts and Calvarium. After this, Negative Pressure Wound Therapy via the Chariker-Jeter technique using the PREMCO Prodigy was commenced at Pressures of 100mmHg. Over the next several weeks, a healthy bed of granulation tissue developed over all exposed areas allowing for skin grafting. He left the hospital AMA but returned a few months later for follow up when the last picture was taken.

