

Letter from Miss G.

I am a teacher's aide at a primary school where I work with K-3rd graders, a coach for girl's varsity basketball, and varsity track and field. I am also a mom of two teenage sons and a wife. I guess you could say I am a busy person.

In September 2010, I tore my Achilles tendon walking onto the basketball court and my life came to a halt. Since the tendon had torn completely, I had to have surgery. After the surgery, I was put into a cast, which rubbed against my incision causing it to blister. Once my cast was removed, I was put into a non-weight bearing boot. The boot then rubbed against my incision and it not only became infected, but it started to re-tare my tendon, requiring me to have the whole surgery redone.

After the second surgery, I was put on a KCI wound VAC. The VAC was attached to my wound, which would help it granulate the skin from the inside up to the surface. I had to stay near an outlet so the VAC would not lose its charge and every time I had to get up, I had to unplug the VAC and carry it with me, which was not easy on crutches. A nurse had to come to my house two to three times a week to change all the tubing and bandages.

When I went for my four-week check up with the surgeon, she took me off the VAC. I was thinking, "Ok the everything is going to go great from here." A week went by and I noticed my incision was really red and sensitive. I called my surgeon and she recommended I see a plastic surgeon/wound care doctor.

I made an appointment at The Butler Wound Care Center and saw Dr. Blaine. He said my wound was not going to heal properly, because I had some sutures surfacing and causing the redness, but once the sutures were removed, the wound should start to heal.

The sutures were taken out and I was released to go back to work. Within one week of being back at work, I noticed some redness, burning and sharp pains in and around my incision. The redness was moving up my leg and had become infected once again. Dr. Blaine biopsied and cleaned my wound and told me my wound was infected, again.

After two weeks, the infection was still present. At this time, Dr. Blaine found another suture surfacing and causing an infection. He recommended I be put back on the wound VAC, and all I could think of was the first VAC and how was I going to work with this thing attached to me? Needless to say, I was very upset. It had been six months from the original surgery and I had to go back on the VAC.

That is when he told me about the SNaP[®] VAC. He and Nurse Jodi explained it was a portable VAC that they had used in Haiti after the hurricanes and it did not

need to be plugged in or charged. I have to say, when Nurse Ed put the SNaP® on, I was pretty amazed at how small it was. The thought did cross my mind about how effective this was going to be, since it did not have to be plugged in and there was no bag to lug around like the KCI VAC. Where was the suction going to come from?

Ed explained how the SNaP® worked on suction as he pulled this black key out of the top. Sure enough, I could feel the seal and the suction. The best part was that I was able to strap it on my leg and no one was able to tell I had it on. I could work all day with the kids and not have to worry about lugging a bag around with me, answering a lot of questions. The tubing is long enough for me to unhook the strap to get a bath and even if it gets a little wet, it does not matter; the whole thing is plastic and dries very easily. I am able to do my daily activities once again!

My wound is finally healing and I am thankful I had the opportunity to try the SNaP®. I have told so many people about the SNaP® that they will soon be in high demand.

Sincerely,
Miss G