



The Advanced Wound Care Center at St. Joseph Medical Center continues the traditions of *firsts* – it's the first and only hospital in downtown Houston to specialize in the care of advanced wounds. Wounds that have not healed with four weeks of standard medical care are considered a problem and require special treatment.

The Advanced Wound Care Center is an outpatient clinic which specializes in treating patients with chronic, slow- or non-healing wounds. We take a comprehensive approach, using the latest treatments and technologies, so that our patients enjoy real benefits of positive improvement.

Our physicians – dermatologists, podiatrists, endocrinologists and infectious disease specialists, as well as plastic, vascular and general surgeons – and staff have received special training in caring for advanced wounds.

Beginning with a thorough evaluation, we work with your primary care physician and individualize your treatment to deal with other complications, such as diabetes, that might hinder your healing. Your doctor will receive regular updates.

Successful healing usually takes six to 16 weeks, depending on the nature of the wounds. Patients visit every one to two weeks to monitor and care for the wound as needed. Your care plan will be individualized to meet your specific needs.

- Assessment
 - complete evaluation and medical history
 - non-invasive vascular studies
- Treatment
 - debridement
 - infection control
 - topical dressings
 - compression therapy
 - hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Surgery, if needed
 - revascularization
 - skin grafting
 - deep debridement
- Protection
 - education
 - continuity of care

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is an option for chronic wounds. Patients receive 100 percent oxygen under pressure in a single-person chamber. This allows a high concentration of oxygen to attach to red blood cells and be transported to the wound site. Studies have shown that hyperbaric oxygen has increased healing by an average of 25 percent in appropriate patients.

Physician referral, though not required, is preferable for continuity of care. In addition to the treatments, we will teach you and your family proper techniques for caring for your wound. If necessary, nutrition education and smoking cessation programs will be included. Most of our services are covered by Medicare.

For more information on the Advanced Wound Care Center, call 713.356.7820.