

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

MANUALLY-ACTUATED, REDUCED-PRESSURE SYSTEMS FOR TREATING WOUNDS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present invention claims the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), of the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application serial number 61/079,866, entitled "Manually-Actuated, Reduced-Pressure System for Treating a Wound," filed July 11, 2008, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present invention relates generally to medical treatment systems and particularly to manually-actuated, reduced-pressure systems and apparatuses for treating wounds.

[0003] Clinical studies and practice have shown that providing a reduced pressure in proximity to a tissue site augments and accelerates the growth of new tissue at the tissue site. The applications of this phenomenon are numerous, but application of reduced pressure has been particularly successful in treating wounds. This treatment (frequently referred to in the medical community as "negative pressure wound therapy," "reduced pressure therapy," or "vacuum therapy") provides a number of benefits, including faster healing and increased formulation of granulation tissue. Typically, reduced pressure is applied to tissue through a porous pad or other manifold device. The porous pad contains cells or pores that are capable of distributing reduced pressure to the tissue and channeling fluids that are drawn from the tissue. The porous pad may be incorporated into a dressing having other components that facilitate treatment.

[0004] Reduced-pressure treatment systems are often applied to large, highly exuding wounds present on patients undergoing acute or chronic care, as well as other severe wounds that are not readily susceptible to healing without application of reduced pressure. Low-severity wounds that are smaller in volume and produce less exudate have generally been treated with dressings and not with reduced pressure. The expense and need for trained caregivers to administer and maintain reduced-pressure systems have been a detriment to use.

At the same time, size and power requirements have been a detriment to many patients who desire mobility and comfort. Further still, the expense of systems has made it difficult to justify use of reduced pressure on low-severity wounds.

[0005] One of the challenges of treating wounds with reduced pressure is providing an effective manner of producing a constant source of reduced pressure. Currently, battery-operated pumps are often used to provide a reduced pressure to the wound site. However, these pumps are costly and require maintenance to ensure the batteries do not run out of power while the wound therapy is occurring. The loss of battery power may result in a long period of time until the reduced pressure is restored to the site due to the time involved to change the battery or make other provisions. Moreover, if the reduced pressure at the site is not maintained properly, leaks can occur at the wound site limiting the effectiveness of the reduced-pressure therapy.

SUMMARY

[0006] Problems with existing reduced-pressure sources and systems are addressed by the systems, apparatus, and methods of the illustrative embodiments described herein.

5 According to an illustrative embodiment, a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system for treating a wound on a patient includes a manifold member, a sealing member, a reduced-pressure delivery member, a reduced-pressure interface, and a manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source for generating a reduced pressure. The manifold is operable to distribute a reduced pressure. The sealing member is operable to provide a fluid seal over the
10 manifold member and a portion of the patient. The reduced-pressure delivery member transmits reduced pressure from the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source to the reduced-pressure interface. The manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source includes a reduced-pressure port that is fluidly coupled to a first end of the reduced-pressure delivery member. The manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source includes a
15 constant-force biasing member.

[0007] According to another illustrative embodiment, a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus for use with a reduced-pressure system for treating tissue includes a flexible, collapsible member having a first end, a second end, and an interior space. The flexible, collapsible member is operable to move between a compressed position and an
20 extended position. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus further includes an evacuation port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member and a reduced-pressure port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus has a carrier member coupled to the first end of the flexible, collapsible member and a slider member coupled to the second end of the flexible, collapsible member. The slider
25 member is operable to slidably engage the carrier member and to move between the compressed position and the extended position. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus further includes a constant-force biasing member associated with carrier member and slider member and that is operable to urge the slider member and carrier member away from each other between the compressed position and the extended position.

30 [0008] According to another illustrative embodiment, a method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus includes the steps of forming a carrier member, forming a slider member, and providing a flexible, collapsible member having a first end, a

second end, and an interior space. The slider member and carrier member are formed to slidably engage one another. The flexible, collapsible member is moveable between a compressed position and an extended position. The method of manufacturing further includes the steps of coupling the first end of the flexible, collapsible member to the carrier member, coupling the second end of the flexible, collapsible member to the slider member, and associating a constant-force biasing member with the carrier member and slider member. The constant-force biasing member is operable to urge the carrier member and slider member away from each other between the compressed position and extended position. The method of manufacturing further includes the steps of associating an evacuation port with the flexible, collapsible member for allowing fluid to exit the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member when being placed in the compressed position and associating a reduced-pressure port with the flexible, collapsible member for delivering reduced pressure from the flexible, collapsible member.

[0009] According to another illustrative embodiment, a method of treating a tissue site on a patient with reduced pressure includes the steps of deploying a manifold member proximate the tissue site, deploying a sealing member over the manifold member and a portion of the patient's epidermis to form a fluid seal, coupling a reduced-pressure interface on the sealing member for providing reduced pressure to the manifold member, and providing a reduced-pressure source, wherein the reduced-pressure source is a manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source. The manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source includes a reduced-pressure port. The reduced-pressure port is fluidly coupled to the first end of the reduced-pressure delivery member and is operable to develop a substantially constant reduced pressure. The manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source includes a constant-force biasing member. The method of treating further includes the steps of fluidly coupling the reduced-pressure source to the reduced-pressure interface and moving the reduced-pressure source to the compressed position.

[0010] Other features and advantages of the illustrative embodiments will become apparent with reference to the drawings and detailed description that follow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIGURE 1 is a schematic presentation of an illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system for treating a wound with a portion shown in cross-section and a portion shown in a perspective view;

[0012] FIGURE 2 is a schematic, exploded perspective view of an illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus for use with a reduced-pressure system;

[0013] FIGURES 3A and 3B are schematic cross-sections of a portion of the apparatus of FIGURE 2;

[0014] FIGURES 4A, 4B, and 4C present an illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus shown in a compressed position, an intermediate position, and an expanded position, respectively;

[0015] FIGURE 5 is a schematic perspective view of another illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus; and

[0016] FIGURE 6 is a schematic perspective view of another illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[0017] In the following detailed description of the illustrative embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that logical structural, mechanical, electrical, and chemical changes may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. To avoid detail not necessary to enable those skilled in the art to practice the embodiments described herein, the description may omit certain information known to those skilled in the art. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the illustrative embodiments are defined only by the appended claims.

[0018] Referring to FIGURE 1, a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system 100 for treating a tissue site 102 with a reduced pressure is shown. The tissue site 102 may be the bodily tissue of any human, animal, or other organism, including bone tissue, adipose tissue, muscle tissue, dermal tissue, vascular tissue, connective tissue, cartilage, tendons, ligaments, or any other tissue.

[0019] The reduced pressure may be applied to the tissue site 102 to help promote removal of exudates or other fluids from the tissue site or to stimulate the growth of additional tissue. Unless otherwise indicated, as used herein, “or” does not require mutual exclusivity. In the case of a wound at the tissue site 102, the growth of granulation tissue and removal of exudates and bacteria helps to promote healing of the wound. In the situation of a non-wounded or non-defective tissue, reduced pressure may be used to promote the growth of tissue that may be harvested and transplanted to another tissue site. As used herein, “reduced pressure” generally refers to a pressure less than the ambient pressure at a tissue site that is being subjected to treatment. In most cases, this reduced pressure will be less than the atmospheric pressure at which the patient is located. Alternatively, the reduced pressure may be less than a hydrostatic pressure at the tissue site 102. Unless otherwise indicated, values of pressure stated herein are gauge pressures. Although the terms “vacuum” and “negative pressure” may be used to describe the pressure applied to the tissue site, the actual pressure applied to the tissue site may be more than the pressure normally associated with a complete vacuum. Consistent with the use herein, an increase in reduced pressure or vacuum pressure typically refers to a relative reduction in absolute pressure.

[0020] The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system 100 includes a manifold member 110, a sealing member 114, a reduced-pressure interface 120, and a reduced-pressure source 140, which is a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus. A reduced-pressure delivery member 122 fluidly couples the reduced-pressure source 140 to the reduced-pressure interface 120.

[0021] The manifold member 110 is placed at the tissue site 102. The manifold member 110 may be a biocompatible material that is capable of being placed in contact with the tissue site and distributing reduced pressure to the tissue site. The term “manifold” as used herein generally refers to a substance or structure that is provided to assist in applying reduced pressure to, delivering fluids to, or removing fluids from a tissue site. The manifold member 110 typically includes a plurality of flow channels or pathways that distribute fluids provided to and removed from the area of tissue around the manifold. The flow channels may be interconnected. Examples of manifolds may include, without limitation, devices that have structural elements arranged to form flow channels, cellular foam (such as open-cell foam), porous tissue collections, and liquids, gels and foams that include or cure to include flow channels. The manifold member 110 may be porous and may be made from foam, gauze, felted mat, or any other material suited to a particular biological application.

[0022] In one illustrative embodiment, the manifold member 110 is a porous foam and includes a plurality of interconnected cells or pores that act as flow channels. The porous foam may be a polyurethane, open-cell, reticulated foam, such as the GranuFoam® material manufactured by Kinetic Concepts, Incorporated of San Antonio, Texas. Other embodiments might include “closed cells.” In some situations, the manifold may also be used to distribute fluids, such as medications, antibacterials, growth factors, and other solutions to the wound. Other layers may be included, such as absorptive materials, wicking materials, hydrophobic materials and hydrophilic materials.

[0023] The sealing member 114 is placed over the manifold member 110 and provides a fluid seal adequate for the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system 100 to hold a reduced pressure at the tissue site 102. “Fluid seal,” or “seal,” means a seal adequate to hold reduced pressure at a desired site given the particular reduced-pressure subsystem or source involved. The sealing member 114 may be a cover that is used to secure the manifold member 110 at the tissue site 102. While the sealing member 114 may be impermeable or semi-permeable, the sealing member is capable of maintaining a reduced pressure at the tissue site 102 after

installation of the sealing member 114 over the manifold member 110 and a portion of the patient's epidermis. The sealing member 114 may be a flexible over-drape or film formed from a silicone based compound, acrylic, polyurethane, hydrogel or hydrogel-forming material, or any other biocompatible material that includes the impermeability or permeability characteristics desired for the tissue site 102.

[0024] The sealing member 114 may further include an attachment device 116 to secure the sealing member 114 to a patient's skin. The attachment device 116 may take many forms. For example, an adhesive layer 118 may be positioned along a perimeter of the sealing member or any portion of the sealing member to provide the fluid seal. The adhesive layer 118 may also be pre-applied and covered with a release member that is removed at the time of application.

[0025] The reduced-pressure interface 120, or connector, permits the passage of fluid from the manifold member 110 to the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 and vice versa. For example, exudates collected from tissue site using the manifold member 110 may enter the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 via the reduced-pressure interface 120. In another embodiment, the system 100 may not include the reduced-pressure interface 120 and the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 may be inserted directly through the sealing member 114 and into the manifold member 110. The reduced-pressure delivery member 122 may be a medical conduit or tubing or any other device for enabling transportation or transmission of reduced pressure.

[0026] Reduced pressure is generated and supplied to the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 by the reduced-pressure source 140, which is a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus. The reduced-pressure source 140 may include a flexible, collapsible member 146 that is associated with a carrier member 156 and a slider member 168. As used herein, "associated" means to bring together or into relationship in any of various ways, such as permanently coupling one to another, releasably coupling one to another, aligning members to allow one member to push or pull another member, etc.

[0027] While not explicitly shown in FIGURE 1, the reduced-pressure source 140 includes a constant-force biasing member that urges slider member 168 away from carrier member 156. The reduced-pressure source 140 has an evacuation port 153 that allows the air or other fluid in the flexible, collapsible member 146 to exit, but not enter the evacuation port 153. Reduced pressure is delivered by the reduced-pressure source 140 through a reduced-

pressure port 154, which is coupled to the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 and may be operable to allow flow in only one direction—from the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 into the flexible, collapsible member 146. By using the constant-force biasing member, the reduced-pressure source 140 is operable to develop a constant reduced pressure. As used
5 herein, “constant” means that a particular reduced pressure may be maintained at the reduced-pressure port 154 at a given level plus or minus five percent. The strength of the constant-force biasing member is a variable for establishing the reduced pressure level produced by the reduced-pressure source 140.

[0028] A number of different devices may be added to a medial portion 124 of the
10 reduced-pressure delivery member 122. For example, a fluid collection member 126 may be added to hold exudates and other fluids removed (the fluids may also be held within the flexible, collapsible member 146). Other examples of devices that may be included on the medial portion 124 of the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 include a pressure feedback device, volume detection system, blood detection system, infection detection system, flow
15 monitoring system, temperature monitoring system, etc. Some of these devices, e.g., the fluid collection member, may be formed integrally with the reduced-pressure source 140. The reduced-pressure port 154 may include a filter member that includes one or more filters and may include a hydrophobic filter that prevents liquid from entering an interior space within the collapsible member 146. An odor filter may also be included.

[0029] In operation, the manifold member 110 is deployed proximate the tissue site
20 102, and the sealing member 114 is deployed to create a fluid seal over the manifold member 110 and a portion of the patient’s epidermis. If not already coupled, the reduced-pressure interface 120 is coupled to the sealing member 114. The reduced-pressure delivery member 122 is coupled between the reduced-pressure interface 120 and the reduced-pressure source
25 140. The slider member 168 is manually actuated or moved toward the carrier member 156 thereby collapsing the flexible, collapsible member 146 and placing the reduced-pressure source 140 in a compressed position. During this movement, air or other fluid in the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member 146 is forced out through the outlet evacuation port 153. Then, once released, as the biasing device urges the slider member 168 away from the
30 carrier member 156, the biasing causes the flexible, collapsible member 146 to want to expand which generates a reduced pressure that is communicated through the reduced-pressure port 154 to the reduced-pressure delivery member 122 and on through the reduced-pressure

interface 120 to the manifold member 110 and to the tissue site 102. As the delivery of reduced pressure causes gases or possibly other fluids to enter the reduced-pressure port 154, the flexible, collapsible member 146 expands and eventually fills to arrive at an expanded position. Depending on the circumstances, e.g., if the flexible, collapsible member 146 is not contaminated, the flexible, collapsible member 146 may be re-primed by placing the flexible, collapsible member 146 in the compressed position again and starting another cycle. An alarm may be added to audibly signal when the expanded position has been reached.

[0030] Referring now primarily to FIGURE 2, a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 is shown in an exploded, perspective view. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 includes a flexible, collapsible member 246 disposed between a carrier member 256 and a slider member 268. The carrier member 256 and the slider member 268 are urged away from each other by a constant-force biasing member 278.

[0031] The flexible, collapsible member 246 has a first end 248 and a second end 250. The flexible, collapsible member 246 may hold air or other fluid in an interior portion. An evacuation port 253 may be located near the first end 248 to allow the air or other fluid to exit the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member 246. A reduced-pressure port 254 may be located near the second end 250. During use, the reduced-pressure port 254 is fluidly coupled to a reduced-pressure delivery conduit, e.g., reduced-pressure delivery member 122 of FIG. 1, to provide reduced pressure to a system for treating tissue at a wound site. These ports 253, 254 may be located anywhere on the flexible, collapsible member 246.

[0032] In this illustrative embodiment, a nodule 255 is coupled to the flexible, collapsible member 246 near the second end 250. The nodule 255 is added for safety reasons. In particular, because the first end 248 has one evacuation port 253 and the second end 250 has reduced-pressure port 254 and nodule 255, the flexible, collapsible member 246 can only be mated with the carrier member 256 and the slider member 268 in one direction. Thus, the flexible, collapsible member 246 may only be installed in the correct way.

[0033] In one illustrative example, the flexible, collapsible member 246 may be formed as bellows. In such an illustrative embodiment, the flexible, collapsible member 246 is formed with corrugated side walls 245 with corrugations that may move toward and away from one another, resulting in a compression and expansion of compressible bellows. The flexible, collapsible member 246 may be made from any material, e.g., a flexible polymer, which allows for the compression and expansion of the bellows. The shape may be

rectangular, circular, or any other shape. The flexible, collapsible member 246 may be coupled to the carrier member 256 and slider member 268 by being welded, screwed, glued, bolted, air-lock sealed, snapped or by any other means. The term “coupled” generally includes coupling via a separate object and includes direct coupling. The term “coupled” also encompasses two or more components that are continuous with one another by virtue of each of the components being formed from the same piece of material. Also, the term “coupled” may include chemical, such as via a chemical bond, mechanical, thermal, or electrical coupling.

[0034] The inner chamber of the flexible, collapsible member operates as a closed system such that the pressure and volume have a defined relationship, i.e., $P_1 * V_1 = P_2 * V_2$. The area of an end wall 251 of the flexible, collapsible member 246 experiences pressure and transmits a force to the slider member 268. The force is proportional to the area ($F \approx PA$). The reduced pressure generated can be controlled by selecting the force of the constant-force biasing member 278 and controlling the area of the end wall 251. The pressure developed by the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 is generally inversely proportional to the area on the interior portion of the end wall 251 of the flexible, collapsible member 246 that faces a slider lateral slider member 276 ($P \approx F/A$).

[0035] The carrier member 256 is shown in this illustrative embodiment as having a first socket member 258 and a second socket member 260. As will be explained further below, the socket members 258 and 260 are sized to receive a first constant-force coil spring 280 and a second constant-force coil spring 282, respectively, and a first arm 270 and a second arm 272 of the slider member 268, respectively.

[0036] The first socket member 258 and second socket member 260 are coupled by a lateral carrier member 262. The lateral carrier member 262 is formed with a port channel 264. The port channel 264 is sized and configured to securely receive, such as by an interference fit, the evacuation port 253. The socket members 258 and 260 may be formed with an indicator window 266 through which a scale, markings, or other visual indicia 274 on an exterior surface 273 of the slider member 268 may be viewed. The carrier member 256 may be formed as a plurality of components that are coupled through welding, adhesives, bolting, snap fitting, screws, or by any other coupling or may be formed as an integral unit such as by casting. The two coil springs 280, 282 could be placed in a single socket member; in that case, it may be desirable to place the indicator window on the opposite side from the side with springs.

[0037] The slider member 268 is formed with a first arm 270 and a second arm 272 and has a lateral slider member 276 coupled between the arms 270, 272. The lateral slider member 276 has a first port channel 275 and a second port channel 277 that are sized and configured to securely receive, e.g. with an interference fit, the reduced-pressure port 254 and the nodule 255 (or simulated port), respectively. The visual indicia 274, such as a scale, may be placed on the exterior surface 273 of one of the arms, e.g., second arm 272.

[0038] In this illustrative embodiment, the constant-force biasing member 278 includes the first constant-force coil spring 280 and the second constant-force coil spring 282. The first constant-force coil spring 280 has a fixation portion 284 and a coil portion 286. The fixation portion 284 is coupled proximate to a socket opening 259 of the first socket member 258 and the socket opening 259 is sized to receive the coil portion 286 of the first constant-force coil spring 280. The first arm 270 of the slider member 268 is formed with an interface area 271, or member, that may be concave as shown, and is made to contact the coil portion 286 and to unroll the coil portion 286 or deflect the coil portion 286 as the slider member 268 is manually actuated towards the carrier member 256.

[0039] Referring now primarily to FIGURES 3A and 3B, a schematic cross-section of the first socket member 258, first constant-force coil spring 280, and first arm 270 are shown initially in an extended position in FIGURE 3A, and then in a compressed position in FIGURE 3B. Beginning in the extended position of FIGURE 3A, the coil portion 286 is near its natural free position, or length. The fixation portion 284 of the first constant-force coil spring 280 is coupled using a coupling device 283, such as a spring retainer or a pin, etc. As the first arm 270 is urged into the first socket member 258, the interface area 271 presses against the coil portion 286 of the first constant-force coil spring 280 and causes the coil portion 286 to unroll at least partially and all the while the first constant-force coil spring 280 provides a constant force that resists the load being placed on the first constant-force coil spring 280.

[0040] As the first arm 270 is urged to the first arm's stopping spot as shown in FIGURE 3B, and released, the first constant-force coil spring 280 will continue to urge the first arm 270 away from and out of the first socket member 258. Returning again to FIGURE 2, it should be understood that the second constant-force coil spring 282 interacts with the second socket member 260 and the second arm 272 in a manner analogous to that shown in FIGURES 3A and 3B for the first constant-force coil spring 280.

[0041] In operation, the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 generates a reduced pressure as the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 moves from a compressed position as shown in FIGURE 4A to an intermediate position shown in FIGURE 4B and ending in an extended position shown in FIGURE 4C. To prepare the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 for use in a reduced-pressure treatment system, the flexible, collapsible member 246 is placed with the evacuation port 253 in the port channel 264 of the carrier member 256 and the reduced-pressure port 254 and the nodule 255 are placed in the first port channel 275 and the second port channel 277, respectively. A reduced-pressure delivery conduit may be connected to the reduced-pressure port 254. Then the slider member 268 is urged towards the carrier member 256 by manually pressing, or activating, the members together such as, for example, with one's hand. As this is done, the constant-force coil springs 280 and 282 unwind and the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 arrives at the compressed position (see FIGURES 3B and 4A).

[0042] Then the manual force that was applied is removed and the springs 280 and 282 urge the slider member 268 away from the carrier member 256. This urging starts to expand the flexible, collapsible member 246 and that places a suction on the reduced-pressure port 254. As gas or other fluid is received into the reduced-pressure port 254, the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 again reaches equilibrium as the slider member 268 is moved out from the carrier member at least to some degree. This process continues through the intermediate positions all the way until the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure source 240 reaches a final, or extended, position (see FIGURES 3A and 4C) where either the flexible, collapsible member 246 being completely full, or the springs 280, 282 having reached their beginning position.

[0043] Referring now primarily to FIGURE 5, another illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source 340 is presented. The manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source 340 includes a flexible, collapsible member 346, a carrier member 356, and a slider member 368. Retention members 383 couple a constant-force biasing member (not shown) within a portion of the carrier member 356. The constant-force biasing member provides a force that urges the slider member 368 away from the carrier member 356 as the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source 340 moves from a compressed position to an extended position.

[0044] The carrier member 356 includes a first socket member 358, a second socket member 360, and a carrier lateral member 362. The carrier member 356 may be formed by component parts that are coupled or may be formed as an integral unit by such means as casting. An indicator 365 may be included as a part of the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source 340 to indicate remaining capacity or movement. As one example, the indicator 365 may be an indicator window 366 formed on the first socket member 358 or the second socket member 360 that allows for visual indicia that is attached to a portion of the slider member 368 to be seen and thereby provides an indication of how much further the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source 340 can move before reaching its fully-extended position. A port channel 364 may be formed on the carrier lateral member 362 to help hold a port, such as a reduced-pressure port through which the reduced pressure that is generated within the flexible, collapsible member 346 may be delivered to a reduced-pressure delivery conduit 322, which transmits the reduced pressure on to a system for treating tissue at a wound site.

[0045] The slider member 368 has a first arm 370 and a second arm 372. The arms 370, 372 are connected by a slider lateral member 376. The slider lateral member 376 may be snapped into position on the two arms 370, 372. In a manner analogous to that shown in FIGURES 3A and 3B, the arms 370, 372 may push a constant-force biasing member located within the socket members 358 and 360.

[0046] The flexible, collapsible member 346 has a first end 348 and a second end 350. A portion of the second end 350 may be formed intentionally to hold fluids, such as exudate that may gather within the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member 346. An absorption gel or other absorption material may be placed within an interior portion of the collapsible member, such as near the second end 350. The first end 348 of the flexible, collapsible member 346, in this particular illustrative embodiment, includes a reduced-pressure port that fits within the port channel 364 on the carrier member 356. The fit, e.g., an interference fit, may be tight enough to help hold the first end 348 securely to the carrier member 356 or other means of coupling the first end 348 may be utilized such as fasteners, welding, adhesives, etc. The second end 350 of flexible, collapsible member 346 is formed with a channel or groove or carrier lug 352 that is sized and configured to receive the slider lateral member 376 and to hold the slider lateral member 376 and thereby secure the second end 350 to the slider member 368.

[0047] Referring now primarily to FIGURE 6, another illustrative embodiment of a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440 is presented in an exploded perspective view. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440 includes a flexible, collapsible member 446, a carrier member 456, which includes a housing portion 457, or casing, and a base member 461. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440 further includes a slider member 468 and a constant-force biasing member 478.

[0048] The flexible, collapsible member 446 has a first end 448 and a second end 450. In this embodiment, the first end 448 is coupled inside of a slider member 468 and the second end 450 is coupled to a base pod 463 of the base member 461.

[0049] The housing portion 457, or casing, of the carrier member 456 is made to snap into position with the base member 461 to form an integral unit, and this can be done with both a lip portion 490 and with detents, or detent arms 467, that engage the housing portion 457. The detent arms 467 may be used to engage and hold a portion of housing portion 457 and a lip portion 490 may be included to receive and hold the housing portion 457 proximate opening 492. The housing portion 457 may include a slider opening 465 in which the slider member 468 may be slidably coupled and may be manually depressed within the slider opening 465.

[0050] The base member 461 may include a reduced-pressure port (not shown) analogous to reduced-pressure port 254 of FIG. 2 for allowing a delivery conduit to be attached and to receive and transmit reduced pressure. The reduced-pressure port 254 is fluidly coupled to an interior space of the flexible, collapsible member 446. The reduced-pressure port 254 may include a counter-bore into the flexible, collapsible member 446 and preferably into a portion of flexible, collapsible member 446 for holding any fluids that might enter. The port may further include a filter carrier with a filter member; the filter member may include a charcoal pellet filter and a sintered hydrophobic filter.

[0051] The slider member 468 is formed with an opening 469. The slider member 468 is sized to be operable to slide within a portion of the housing portion 457.

[0052] The constant-force biasing member 478 may be a constant-force, coil spring 480 with a fixation portion 484 and a coil portion 486. The center opening of the coil portion 486 may be placed upon a drum or pin 488 located on the housing portion 457. The fixation portion 484 may be secured near the slider opening 469.

[0053] In the final assembly of the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440, the flexible, collapsible member 446 is coupled to the base pod 463 where the flexible collapsible member will be held secure and where the flexible, collapsible member 446 is placed into fluid contact with a reduced-pressure port. The first end 448 of the flexible, collapsible member 446 is placed within opening 469 of the slider member 468 and coupled to a portion of the slider member 468. The housing portion 457 is placed over the slider member 468 and the flexible, collapsible member 446 is depressed until the detent arms 467 engage a corresponding receptacle within the opening 492 of the housing portion 457 and the lip 490 engages the opening 492. The constant-force biasing member 478, for example, the constant-force, coil spring 480, is coupled to apparatus 440 by placing the center opening of the coil portion 486 onto the drum 488 of the carrier member 456 and coupling the fixation portion 484 near the opening 469 of the slider member 468.

[0054] In operation, a reduced-pressure delivery conduit is attached to a reduced-pressure port on the base member 461 and then slider member 468 may be depressed, or manually-actuated, by pushing the slider member 468 down further into slider opening 465 to cause manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440 to assume a compressed position in which the flexible, collapsible member 446 is collapsed. As the flexible, collapsible member 446 collapses, the air or other fluid within the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440 is forced out of an evacuation port, which also may be on the bottom side of the base member 461 (analogous to evacuation port 253 of FIGURE 2).

[0055] As the coil spring 480 urges the slider member 468 away from the base member 461 of the carrier member 456, a reduced pressure is developed within the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member 446. This reduced pressure is communicated to the reduced-pressure port. The constant reduced pressure is thus supplied until the flexible, collapsible member 446 is full of air or other fluid and fluids or until the resting place or free length of the constant-force, coil spring 480 is reached. The apparatus provides a constant reduced pressure with only small variation. Over a period of time the manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus 440 is able to compensate for the ingress by gas or liquid within the flexible, collapsible member 446. The magnitude of the reduced pressure may be designed and controlled by varying an area of the end of the flexible, collapsible member 446 as well as the spring force of the constant-force, coil spring 480.

[0056] Although the present invention and its advantages have been disclosed in the context of certain illustrative, non-limiting embodiments, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions, permutations, and alterations can be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. It will be appreciated that any

5 feature that is described in a connection to any one embodiment may also be applicable to any other embodiment.

CLAIMS

We claim:

Claim 1. A manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system for treating a wound on a patient, the system comprising:

5 a manifold member, having a first side and a second, patient-facing side, the manifold operable to distribute a reduced pressure;

a sealing member operable to provide a fluid seal over the manifold member and a portion of the patient;

10 a reduced-pressure delivery member operable to receive and transmit a reduced pressure, the reduced-pressure delivery member having a first end and a second end;

a reduced-pressure interface fluidly coupled to the second end of the reduced-pressure delivery member and operable to receive reduced pressure from the reduced-pressure delivery member and transmit the reduced pressure to the manifold member; and

15 a manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source for generating a reduced pressure, the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source having a reduced-pressure port, the reduced-pressure port fluidly coupled to the first end of the reduced-pressure delivery member, and wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source comprises a constant-force biasing member.

20 Claim 2. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system of claim 1, wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source is operable to provide a constant reduced pressure.

25 Claim 3. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system of claim 1, wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source is operable to provide a constant reduced pressure and wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source comprises:

a carrier member;

a slider member slidably coupled to the carrier member;

a flexible, collapsible member having a first end and a second end and having an interior space, and the first end associated with the carrier member and the second end associated with the slider member;

wherein the carrier member, constant-force biasing member, slider member, and flexible, collapsible member are sized and configured to allow movement between a compressed position and an expanded position;

an evacuation port operable to allow air or other gases to exit the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member; and

wherein the constant-force biasing member comprises a constant-force coil spring operable to urge the carrier member and slider member away from each other between the compressed and extended positions.

Claim 4. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system of claim 3 wherein the carrier member is formed with an indicator window therein for viewing a portion of the slider member.

Claim 5. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system of claim 1, wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source comprises:

a carrier member having a first socket member formed with a first socket opening, a second socket member formed with a second socket opening, and a carrier lateral member coupled to the first socket member and second socket member;

a slider member having a first arm sized and configured to mate with the first socket opening of the first socket member, a second arm sized and configured to mate with a the second socket opening of the second socket member, and a lateral slider member coupled to the first arm and second arm;

wherein the carrier member and slider member are operable to slidably engage one another and are operable to move between a compressed position and an expanded position;

a first constant-force, coil spring coupled to the first socket member proximate the first socket opening, the first constant-force, coil spring operable to provide a constant force against the first arm to urge the carrier member and the slider member from the compressed position to the extended position;

a second constant-force, coil spring coupled to the second socket member proximate the second socket opening, the second constant force, coil spring operable to provide a constant force against the second arm to urge it from the compressed position to the extended position; and

5 a flexible, collapsible member having a first end and a second end, the first end coupled to the carrier member and the second end coupled to the slider member and operable to move between the compressed position and the extended position.

Claim 6. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure system of claim 1 wherein the
10 manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source comprises:

a flexible, collapsible member having a first end, a second end, and an interior space and operable to move between a compressed position and an extended position;

an evacuation port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member;

a reduced-pressure port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member;

15 a carrier member coupled to the first end of the flexible, collapsible member;

a slider member coupled to the second end of the flexible, collapsible member and operable to slidably engage the carrier member; and

wherein the constant-force biasing member is associated with the carrier member and slider member and is operable to urge the slider member and carrier member
20 away from each other.

Claim 7. A manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus for use with a reduced-pressure system for treating tissue at a tissue site, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible, collapsible member having a first end, a second end, and an interior space and operable to move between a compressed position and an extended position;

an evacuation port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member;

a reduced-pressure port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member;

a carrier member coupled to the first end of the flexible, collapsible member;

a slider member coupled to the second end of the flexible, collapsible member and operable to slidably engage the carrier member and to move between the

compressed position and the extended position; and

a constant-force biasing member associated with carrier member and slider member and operable to urge the slider member and carrier member away from each other between the compressed position and the extended position.

Claim 8. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 7 wherein the constant force biasing member comprises a constant-force, coil spring.

Claim 9. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 7 wherein the constant force biasing member comprises a constant-force, coil spring coupled to the carrier member and operable to provide a constant force urging the slider member from the compressed position to the extended position.

Claim 10. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 7 wherein the constant-force biasing member comprises a first constant-force coil spring and a second constant-force coil spring coupled to the carrier member and operable to provide a constant force urging the slider member from the compressed position to the extended position.

Claim 11. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 7 further comprising an indicator coupled to the carrier member for indicating movement of the apparatus between the compressed position and the extended position.

Claim 12. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 7 wherein the carrier member is formed with an indicator window and further comprising visual indicia secured on the slider member, and wherein a portion of the visual indicia may be seen through the indicator window.

5 Claim 13. The manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 7 wherein the flexible, collapsible member comprises a bellows member.

Claim 14. A method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a carrier member;

10 forming a slider member, the slider member and carrier member being formed to slidably engage one another;

providing a flexible, collapsible member having a first end, a second end, and an interior space and moveable between a compressed position and an extended position;

15 coupling the first end of the flexible, collapsible member to the carrier member;

coupling the second end of the flexible, collapsible member to the slider member;

associating a constant-force biasing member with the carrier member and slider

member, the constant-force biasing member being operable to urge the carrier member and slider member away from each other between the compressed

20 position and extended position;

forming an evacuation port on the flexible, collapsible member for allowing fluid to exit the interior space of the flexible, collapsible member when being placed in the compressed position; and

25 forming a reduced-pressure port on the flexible, collapsible member for delivering a reduced pressure from the flexible, collapsible member.

Claim 15. The method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 14, wherein the step of associating a constant-force biasing member with the carrier member and slider member comprises associating a constant-force, coil spring with the carrier member and slider member.

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Claim 16. The method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 14, wherein the step of associating a constant-force biasing member with the carrier member and slider member comprises the step of coupling a fixation portion of a constant-force spring to the carrier member and configuring the slider portion to press
5 against a coil portion of the constant-force spring.

Claim 17. The method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second end of the flexible, collapsible member has an area (A) and wherein the area (A) and a force (F) provided by the constant-force biasing member are selected to produce a desired reduced pressure (RP) at the reduced-pressure port and
10 where $RP \approx F/A$.

Claim 18. The method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 14 further comprising the step of coupling an indicator to the carrier member.

Claim 19. The method of manufacturing a manually-actuated, reduced-pressure apparatus of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

15 attaching visual indicia to a portion of the slider member; and
forming an indicator window on the carrier member that allows one to view a portion of the visual indicia.

Claim 20. A method of treating a tissue site on a patient with reduced pressure, the method comprising the steps of:

deploying a manifold member proximate the tissue site;

5 deploying a sealing member over the manifold member and a portion of the patient's epidermis to form a fluid seal;

coupling a reduced-pressure interface on the sealing member for providing reduced pressure to the manifold member;

10 providing a reduced-pressure source, wherein the reduced-pressure source comprises a manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source for generating a reduced-pressure, the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source having a reduced-pressure port, the reduced-pressure port fluidly coupled to the first end of a reduced-pressure delivery member and operable to develop a substantially constant reduced-pressure, and wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source comprises a constant-force biasing member;

15 fluidly coupling the reduced-pressure source to the reduced-pressure interface; and moving the reduced-pressure source to the compressed position.

Claim 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the manually-actuated, constant reduced-pressure source comprises:

20 a flexible, collapsible member having a first end, a second end, and an interior space

and operable to move between a compressed position and an extended position;

an evacuation port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member;

a reduced-pressure port coupled to the flexible, collapsible member;

a carrier member coupled to the first end of the flexible, collapsible member;

25 a slider member coupled to the second end of the flexible, collapsible member and

operable to slidably engage the carrier member; and

wherein the constant-force biasing member is associated with carrier member and slider member and operable to urge the slider member and carrier member away from each other.