

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA + HEALTHCARE PROFILES

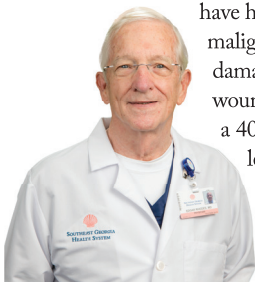
When Women's Wounds Won't Heal

The Wound Care Centers at Southeast Georgia Health System's Brunswick and Camden campuses offer leading-edge treatments for women with vexing, persistent injuries.



Wounds that won't heal are one of medicine's most frustrating conditions. Luckily, the Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus, like its sister campus in Brunswick, is home to a state-of-the-art Wound Care Center.

Although anyone can develop non-healing wounds—from diabetes, injuries, burns, or pressure sores—women who have received radiation treatment for breast or pelvic cancers can have higher risk. “Radiation can eradicate malignancies, but, in rare cases, it can also damage healthy tissue, creating persistent wounds,” says Edgar L. Rhodes II, M.D., a 40-year vascular surgery veteran who leads the Camden Campus Wound Care Center. “We have many treatment options for these women and anyone at our Center. Working with the referral source, infectious disease specialists, and radiation oncologists, we approach injuries in a logical, systematic fashion and do everything we can to heal them.”



The Center's nurses and support staff receive wound care and hyperbarics training, enhancing the synergistic, interdisciplinary approach Southeast Georgia Health System embodies.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Patients are often referred to the Center by their family physician when antibiotics—usually the first treatment plan—fail. A referral allows the primary care physician to focus on underlying health conditions while the Center assumes wound care. Some of the Center's self-referral patients, however, have never sought medical treatment.

The Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus Wound Care Center was made possible in part by the community's support of the Georgia HEARTSM rural hospital tax credit program. The HEART program increases access to healthcare by allowing taxpayers to redirect their state taxes to rural hospitals and receive a 100% state tax credit.

To learn more, visit sghs.org/ga-tax-credit.

“Invariably, our patients ask, ‘How long will this take to heal?’” Dr. Rhodes notes. “Once treatment starts, the healing process can take weeks or months, but, through explanation and partnership, we put people at ease.”

First appointments include a comprehensive evaluation to determine the underlying cause of the wound and its condition. “Is the wound too wet or too dry? Infected or necrotic? Diabetic, arterial, or venous?” says Dr. Rhodes. “Correctly categorizing the wound is critical.”

After the evaluation, patients receive a personalized treatment plan. This may include debridement, infection management, and nutritional counseling. Some patients may receive bioengineered skin substitutes, biological and biosynthetic dressings, and growth factor therapies. Patients with advanced wounds may receive contact castings or treatments in a state-of-the-art hyperbaric oxygen chamber.

“Injured tissues require oxygen to heal,” explains Dr. Rhodes. “The hyperbaric chamber provides an excellent environment for the development of blood vessels—critical for healing—and helps fight infection.”

“These advanced therapies are not available in a regular doctor's office and are rarely found in small, rural hospitals like ours,” he continues. “Southeast Georgia Health System is future-minded in bringing this kind of critical care to all patients throughout southeast Georgia.”



SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

WOUND CARE CENTERS

CAMDEN CAMPUS
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