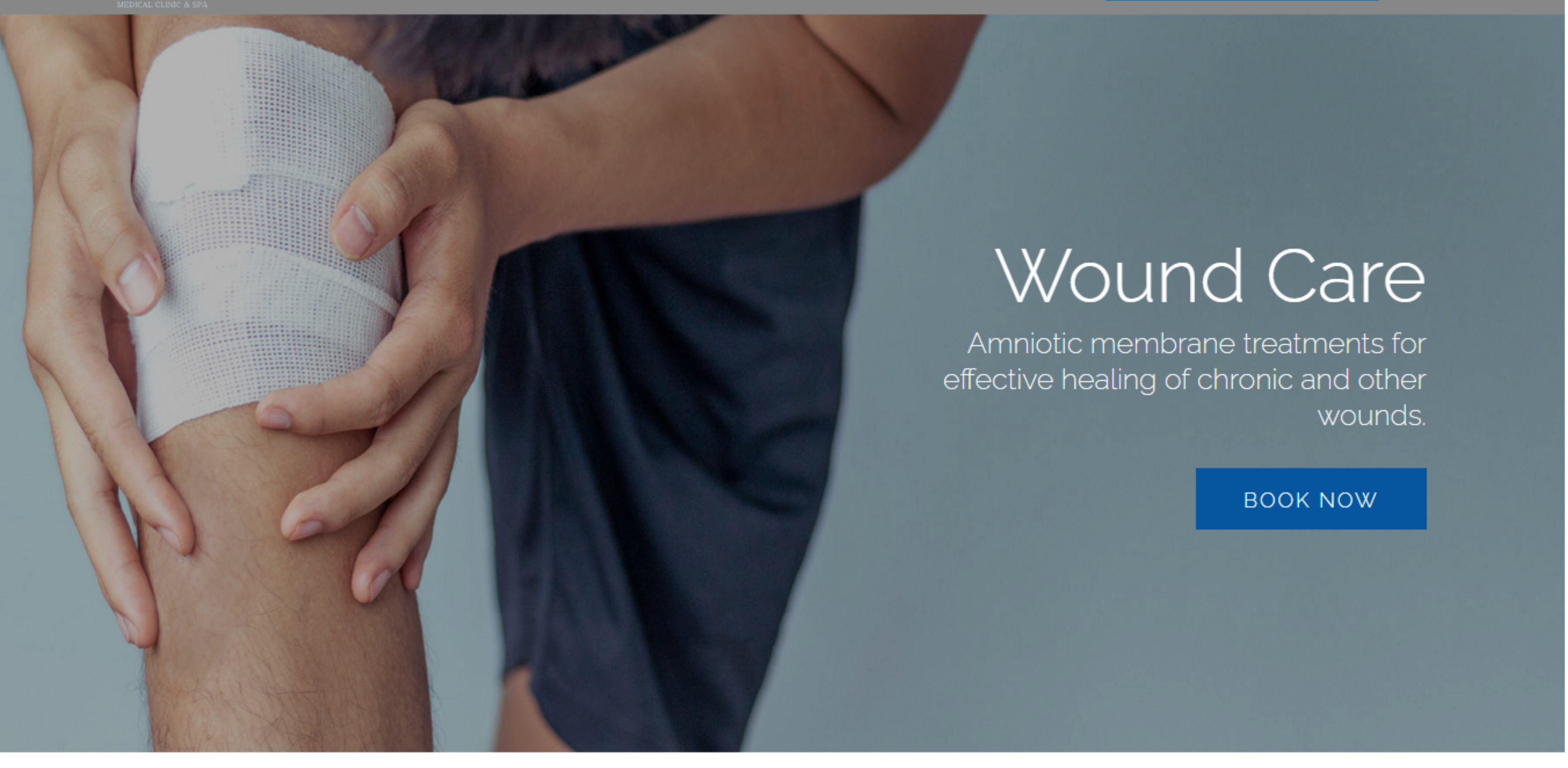

Wound Care

Amniotic membrane treatments for effective healing of chronic and other wounds.

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Wound Care in St. Petersburg, FL

Wounds that have not progressed through the normal process of healing and are open for more than a month are classified as chronic wounds (1) A 2018 retrospective analysis of Medicare beneficiaries identified that ~8.2 million people had wounds with or without infections.(2)

What can be done to treat Chronic Wounds?

There have been a variety of treatments available for chronic wound care. Amniotic tissue has received considerable attention from the scientific medical community for its ability to improve the healing of a variety of wound types, including surgical, traumatic, pressure wounds, and wounds caused by diabetes or infection. (3) A recent study has shown that amniotic membrane can be a valid source for wound healing (4)

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How long has this treatment been around?

The human amniotic membrane has been used in wound care for almost a century. It is now enjoying a resurgence in use in wound care, thanks to new techniques that allow this unique material to be dried and stored for prolonged periods of time.

In the past, amniotic tissue was sterilized and stored at 4°C. Amniotic tissue could only be used for up to six weeks, at which point it was no longer useful. Now, this material can be cleansed, dehydrated and sterilized, which means that the shelf life of amniotic membrane has been greatly increased.

Where does Amniotic Tissue come from?

Amniotic tissue comes from the afterbirth of the birthing process. No babies are ever harmed during this process. Pregnant women are asked to voluntarily donate their afterbirth. If they agree, they are tested to ensure that the donated tissue meets the regulations and standards created by the FDA.

The amniotic membrane lines the inner layer of the placenta, protecting the fetus throughout pregnancy by providing a strong, physical barrier and acting as a filter for metabolites. It regulates the transport of nutrients and water and contains high levels of bioactive molecules that allow it to remain metabolically active to remodel and grow along with the fetus.

The amniotic membrane surrounds and protects the developing fetus in utero and separates the mother and fetus. If you were to look closely at the amniotic membrane, you would be able to notice that the membrane is comprised of several layers. The membrane can be easily separated into two distinct layers: the amnion layer and the chorion layer, which are separated by a jelly-like layer. The amnion layer of the membrane, or fetal side, has a layer of epithelial cells that can easily be removed with simple cell scraping, revealing a see-through underlying layer. The chorion layer is the maternal side of the amniotic membrane. Both layers have a basement membrane and a stromal layer (5)

Amniotic Member is derived from living, healthy donors after a full-term pregnancy and a scheduled Caesarean section (C-section). Donors are healthy women who are thoroughly screened for communicable diseases. A careful medical and social history is collected in advance to ensure the mother meet all eligibility requirements.

Allograft products preserve the placenta and fluid, which are typically discarded. Tissues are then tested to ensure viability and safety. Once tested, these tissues are processed using the standards established by the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB). Their Allografts are sent to a fully accredited, CLIA-certified independent lab for sterility testing prior to release.

Studies have described the placental tissues as "immune privileged" because they rarely evoke an immune response in the human body. This reduces the risk of an adverse immune reaction. Amniotic tissue also has reported anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and anti-fibrotic properties.

FAQ

– WHAT IS IN AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE?

If you looked at the amniotic membrane under a microscope, you would see three different types of material:

1. Collagen and extracellular matrix - The extracellular matrix provides structure and contains a number of specialized proteins, including proteoglycans, fibronectin, laminins and others. Several types of collagen add structural strength to the membrane. (5)
2. Biologically active cells - The biologically active cells include stem cells, which function to regenerate new cellular materials within the lining of the membrane. Fibroblasts help to strengthen the tissue, and epithelial cells aid in the healing process via receptors on the cell surface. (5)
3. Regenerative molecules - Regenerative molecules, which are important for growth and healing, are present in the amniotic membrane as well. These include numerous types of growth factors such as fibroblast growth factors, platelet-derived growth factors, metalloproteinases and others. Immunosuppressive cytokines prevent the amniotic membrane from being seen as 'foreign' by both the mother and infant's immune systems. There are also a number of other specialized molecules, such as defensins which protect against bacterial infection (5)

\+ HOW DOES AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE HELP WITH WOUND CARE?

\+ WHAT TYPES OF WOUNDS CAN AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE BE USED ON?

\+ HOW SOON WILL I SEE AN IMPROVEMENT?

\+ HOW DOES AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE HELP WITH HEALING?

\+ HOW MUCH DOES AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE COST?

\+ HOW DO I KNOW IF I CAN GET AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE TREATMENT FOR MY CHRONIC WOUND?

\+ WHERE DO YOU GET THE AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE PRODUCT?

\+ WHO IS REGENATIVE LABS?

\+ WHAT QUALITY CONTROLS ARE IN PLACE FOR REGENERATIVE LABS TISSUES?

Minky B.
★★★★★
Though I was nervous about my procedure, management and staff brought a lighter image my way that made my time at Water's Edge remarkable. Nurse Judy is AMAZING! God Bless you all.

Del G.
★★★★★
I have enjoyed my experience with Waters edge medical, they are taking a personal interest in me and helping me get through my neuropathy issue. I still have a ways to go but I'm sure and have confidence they will continue to help me.

Randy N.
★★★★★
Great help for my neuropathy. Very compassionate and caring staff.

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