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FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

**A SURVEY OF TEXTILE WOUND DRESSING MATERIALS USED
IN ZIMBABWE GOVERMENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS.**

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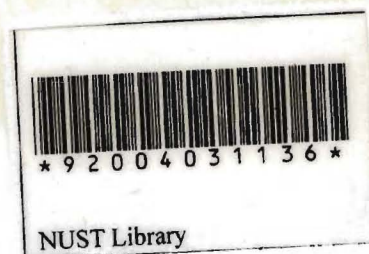
**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELOR OF TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY
(HONS) DEGREE.**

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Abstract

Wounds heal in stages and for a specific type of wound, the properties required of the wound dressing material are different at different stages of wound healing. It is now widely accepted in wound management that a warm, moist wound environment encourages healing, and prevents tissue dehydration and cell death. This has led to the development of many modern wound dressing products that are innovative and beneficial to the patient needs and meets clinical requirements of wounds and wound management. Modern medicine around the world is now shifting its focus from traditional dressing materials to the modern dressing materials. In spite of such developments in modern medicine, Zimbabwe lags behind in terms of the types of dressing materials used in governmental health institutions. The survey revealed that 70% of the textile wound dressing materials used in Zimbabwe are mainly the variations of traditional cotton gauze dressing materials which are characterized by loose fibres getting caught in the wound surface and thereby prolonging healing time. They also cause trauma to the patient when removing or changing them.

The other 30% constituent modern or advanced wound dressing materials that are imported from other countries. Some of these advanced wound dressing materials are medicated and are made of synthetic fibres. Zimbabwe, richly known in producing cotton fibres with no synthetic fibre production plants, left wound dressing material manufacturers and designers with no choice except continuing manufacturing traditional cotton dressing materials. Researches and development of work done so far on cotton fibres by North America Science Associates (NASA) and Southern Regional Research Center (SSRC) New Orleans, USA have made cotton find its usage in modern wound dressing materials.