



# The William W. Backus Hospital

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[return to homepage](#)

[About us](#) | [Directions & Accommodations](#) | [News & Events](#) | [Contact Backus](#)  
[Health Resources & Services](#) | [Human Resources](#) | [Backus Foundation](#)



## Press Releases

- Find a Physician**
- On-Line Resources**
- Growing Family Web Nursery**
- Contacts & Feedback**
- Backus Online**

[The Calendar of Events](#) | [Press Releases](#)

[2004 Annual Report](#) | [Health in the News](#) | [The Mobile Health Resource Center](#)

### Backus team publishes research

The nurses and doctors at Backus Hospital's Wound Care Center of Eastern Connecticut have had their share of medical success stories. Now they've achieved literary success.

Patty Conwell, RN, Director of Outpatient Services at Backus, Mark Tramontozzi, MD, Lisa Mikulski, RN and Debra Moran, RN are the co-authors of a case study published in the May edition of *Ostomy Wound Management (OWM)*, a respected national journal that features wound care issues. The publication is significant because the journal is circulated among wound care professionals nationwide.

The article focuses on the success of Hydrofera Blue foam dressing in treating pyoderma gangrenosum, a disease that produces difficult-to-treat wounds. One of the patients featured was a 3-year-old California girl who was bitten by an insect in the Philippines and developed a severe case of pyoderma, to the point where she couldn't even walk. But with the help of Hydrofera, and guidance from the Wound Care Center, she is healthy and walking again.

"We see a lot of difficult to treat wounds here, and Hydrofera Blue has really worked as well or better than other wound care products," said Dr. Tramontozzi, the principal research investigator for the project. "It's simple, but very effective."

As part of a clinical trial at Backus, the Wound Care Center began using Hydrofera, a PVA sponge with methylene blue and gentian violet bound to foam manufactured in Willimantic, on its patients. Because of the tremendous success of the product on all types of wounds, Backus embarked on a second clinical trial specifically for pyoderma.

Two more Backus research projects involving Hydrofera are set to begin soon. One involves documenting the effectiveness of the foam dressing in removing biofilm from wounds. The second project will test Hydrofera's effectiveness compared to another wound dressing in several areas, including pain reduction, infection control and swelling.

Ms. Conwell said patients at the Wound Care Center are benefiting from the Hospital's commitment to research. For example, Backus patients had access to Hydrofera a full year before it was officially approved.

[Return to Press Release List](#)

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