

FRONT

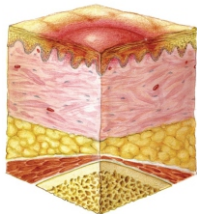
Stages of Pressure Ulcers

Stage

Description

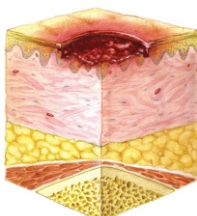
Staging indicates the amount of tissue damaged.

1



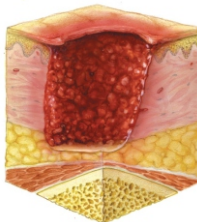
There is redness on the surface of the skin that does not disappear when pressure is relieved.

2



This is a partial thickness wound. There is damage to the top layer of the skin (epidermis) and the layer below the epidermis (dermis). Damage to either layer shows as a shallow or superficial wound. As Stage 2 wounds heal, there is no scar formation and the damaged skin will regenerate. It is key to properly treat Stage 2 pressure ulcers to prevent them from progressing to more complex wounds.

3



This is a full thickness wound. The subcutaneous tissue (below the dermis) is injured, but the wound does not extend into lower layers such as bone, muscle, and/or tendons. It may include undermining¹ and/or tunneling².

¹Undermining is the extension of the wound under the surface of the skin that is parallel to the surface of the skin.

²Tunneling (tracking) is a tract heading away from the wound base in any direction.

BACK

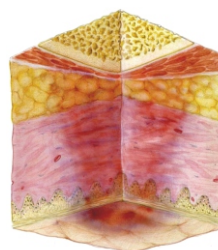
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³Slough is soft, moist, dead tissue. It may be yellow, tan, gray, green or brown.
⁴Eschar is crusty, dead tissue. It may be tan, brown or black.

This is a full thickness wound. The depth of this wound is unknown. It is a localized area where the skin may discolored (purple/maroon) but intact. It may appear to be a bruise. It may also be a blood-filled blister. Once these wounds appear, the deep tissue injury has already been present for some time. It is caused by pressure on the underlying soft tissue over bony prominences or by shear (friction). This may be difficult to detect in dark-skinned people.



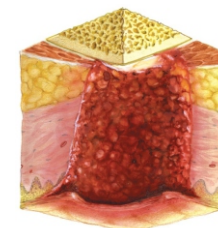
Deep
Tissue Injury

This is a full thickness wound completely obscured by slough or eschar. The depth cannot be determined until enough slough³ and/or eschar⁴ is removed to expose the wound bed; however, it will be either a Stage 3 or Stage 4.



Unstageable

This is a full thickness, very deep wound. Bone, muscle, and/or tendons are exposed in the wound bed. The bone may become infected (osteomyelitis). When these wounds heal, they form scar tissue which is at risk of breaking down again. Underlying tissue does not regenerate.



4