

Stab or puncture wound – a type of laceration. Stab wounds produce short and narrow tunnels of damage. Puncture wounds are deep and narrow and tend to seal at the surface, hiding pockets of infection.

Subcutaneous emphysema – occurs when air gets into tissues under the skin. This can happen due to stabbing, gunshot wounds, other penetrations, or blunt trauma, and infections such as gas gangrene. Subcutaneous emphysema can often be seen as a smooth bulging of the skin. When a healthcare provider feels (palpates) the skin, it produces an unusual crackling sensation as the gas is pushed through the tissue.

Sprains – stretching or tearing of ligaments and other tissues at a joint. Most commonly they affect a patient's hand or leg.

Classification of Sprains

Grade I: Mild injury; involves overstretching or microscopic tearing but without hemorrhage or increased instability of the involved joint. Swelling may develop later.

Grade II: Moderate injury; involves partial, overt tearing of the ligament with at least some ligamentous

continuity remaining; usually immediate pain and swelling with decreased function.

Grade III: Severe injury; total loss of ligamentous continuity, that is, disruption of one or more ligaments or the musculotendinous unit. Pain is immediate but subsides because none of the pain fibers are being stretched. Swelling may be minimal because hemorrhage extravasates (spreads) outside of the area into soft tissues.

Ulcers

Arterial Ulcer: an ulceration that occurs as the result of arterial occlusive disease when not pressure related. Disruption or blockage of the arterial blood flow to an area causes tissue necrosis.

Venous Ulcer: an open lesion of the skin and subcutaneous tissue of the lower leg, often occurring in the lower leg around the medial ankle.

Diabetic Neuropathic Ulcer: an ulceration characteristically occurring on the foot of the diabetic. Associated with loss of sensation. They may appear over pressure points.

