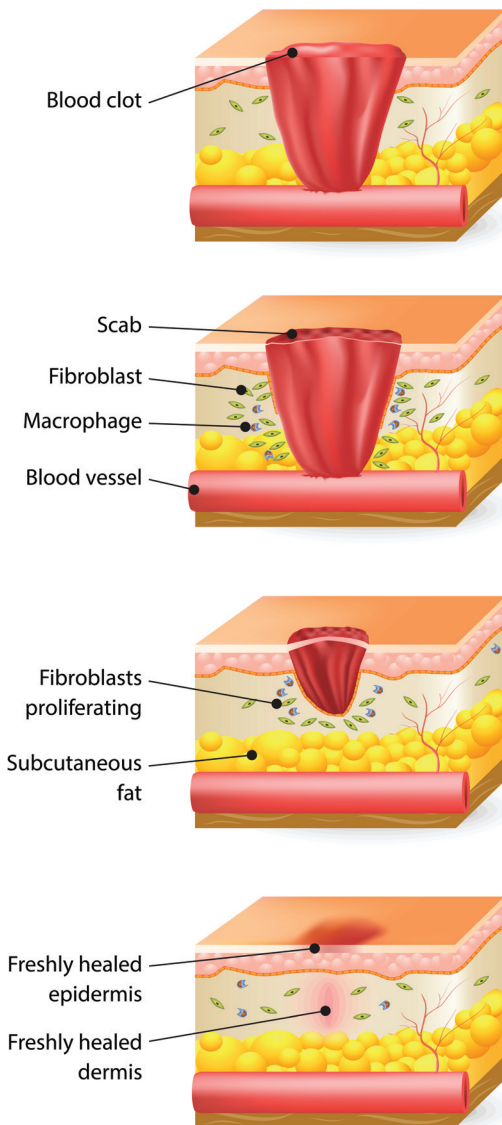


# Wound Healing Phases

Many wounds heal in an orderly sequence of repair as described below. This usually occurs because the cause of the wound has been removed and an optimum environment for healing has been created. Note: Time to heal depends on several factors: the dimensions of the wound, removal of the cause and co-existing health factors and appropriate wound management.

However, some wounds fail to progress through a normal and timely sequence of repair and health-care providers need to determine why. Most, often this occurs when the cause(s) or co-factors affecting the wound have not been corrected so the wound lacks an optimum environment for healing.

**Note: It is important to remember that even when a wound is “closed” it may take up to 2 years for it to be considered “healed.”**



**0–24  
HOURS**

## Hemostasis

**Hemostasis** occurs immediate upon injury releasing platelets that lead to clotting. There is also a release of growth factors.

**DAYS  
1–4**

## Inflammation

**Inflammation** occurs days 1–4 with the release of neutrophils, macrophages and monocytes. Phagocytosis supports wound clean-up.

**DAYS  
4–21**

## Proliferation

**Proliferation (granulation and contraction)** occurs days 4–21 with the release of macrophages, pericytes, lymphocytes, angiocytes, neurocytes, fibroblasts, keratinocytes and epithelial. The deficit is filled with closure of the wound and a re-establishment of skin function.

**DAY 21–  
2 YEARS**

## Maturation

**Maturation (remodeling)** occurs from 21 days to 2 years with the release of fibrocytes and fibroblasts that lead to the development of tensile strength.

**Identify and address all causes of slow or non healing in wounds.**