

Arterial/ischemic

Usually regularly shaped (punched out appearance); due to poor blood flow; very painful, often slow to heal due to lack of oxygen and nutrients to the area; may feel cold to the touch



Peripheral arterial disease on left shin with exposed tendon



Classic "punched out" appearance

Diabetic/Neuropathic

The result of injury to a foot that has peripheral diabetic neuropathy (loss of sensation); often slow healing due to repeated trauma and poor arterial flow (ischemia); infection and Charcot changes are further complications; a person may not even know they have it, hence the repetitive trauma



Neuropathic ulcer on rigid right first digit



Ulcer with erythema indicative of infection

Fistula

An abnormal connection between two body parts, such as an organ or blood vessel or another structure; multiple causes, including inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's or ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis, appendicitis, malignancy, external trauma



Fistula at proximal end of incision



Fistula in closed wound bed

Malignant

Open, rapidly growing and changing cancerous lesion; can occur on any part of the body; usually involves skin tissue and blood and lymph vessels; most often occur in the last six to 12 months of life; rarely heal



Malignant chest wound with a necrotic base and surrounding indurated erythema



Basal cell carcinoma

MASD

Skin breakdown due to moisture that stays on the skin; can result in swollen shiny or tight skin, burning, rashes, open sores, pain; sources of moisture include urine and/or stool, sweat, saliva or mucous, drainage from wounds, ostomy leakage



Incontinence-associated skin damage (IAD)



Intertrigo in a skin fold compromised with yeast

Ostomy

An artificial opening created into an organ resulting in a condition such as a colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy, tracheostomy or gastrostomy; may be temporary or permanent; may exhibit peristomal irritation



Ostomy with a medical device-related pressure injury



Peristomal skin irritation

Pressure Injury

Injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue, often over a bony prominence; due to pressure and/or shear forces that damage the tissues; can be stage 1, stage 2, stage 3 or stage 4 depending on depth of damage; considered unstageable if extent of damage is unknown



Pressure ulcer, stage unknown due to unknown depth



Stage 4 pressure ulcer (to bone)

Skin Tear

A separation of skin layers as a result of shear, friction, blunt trauma; can be partial-thickness or full-thickness; most common in neonates, the elderly and the critically ill but can occur at any age



Skin tear on shin with flap almost intact



Healing skin tear

Surgical

Most wounds heal with a clean incision; an infected wound may be red, hot, swollen, have increased pain and be slow to heal



Uncomplicated



Dehisced

Thermal

Also known as a burn injury; tissue damage caused by heat, cold, radiation, electricity or chemicals; can be superficial, partial-thickness or full-thickness



Superficial burn



Upper body burn injury

Traumatic

An unplanned skin/tissue injury related to falls, bites, cuts, lacerations, abrasions, punctures; range from minor to major



Foreign body



Scratch on fragile skin

Venous

May result from external trauma or internal skin breakdown due to poor venous return; usually irregularly shaped; presence of edema, can be painful, become infected and are often slow to heal if edema not managed



Venous ulcers with maceration



Irritant dermatitis

Infected Wounds

What to look for (one or more of the following):

- A wound that is slow to heal or has stalled
- Tissue that is hot, red, swollen or painful
- Malodour
- Pus, yellow or green tissue or dead tissue in the wound
- Fever



Infected foot ulcer, drawing indicated how redness is decreasing



Infected foot emergency

Does redness always imply infection?

A complete history is required to rule out a variety of internal or external factors, such as pressure, shear, friction, autoimmune disorders incontinence or bacterial or fungal infections. With any wound, take your time and investigate the possible factors that may be at play.

