

Person with a skin tear

Treat the Cause

GENERAL HEALTH cognitive, sensory, visual, auditory, nutrition, chronic/critical disease, polypharmacy

AMBULATION history of falls, impaired mobility, activities to daily living (ADLs)

SKIN age, mechanical trauma, fragile skin, previous tears

Local Wound Care

- Atraumatic (dressing) removal
- Cleanse, Control Bleeding
- Approximate wound edges
- Assess and classify according to ISTAP Classification System

Patient-Centered Concerns

- ADLs
- Pain Control
- Educate client & circle of care/caregivers

Debridement

- Non-viable tissue only
- Avoid sutures/staples

Infection/Inflammation

- Topical Antimicrobials for local infection
- Systemic antibiotics for deep tissue infection
- Consider Tetanus immunization

Moisture Balance

- Peri-Wound Protection (e.g., film forming liquid acrylate)
- Wound: Non-adherent or low tack dressing
- Facilitate moisture balance

Non Advancing Edge

- Re-evaluate
- Consider Active Therapy

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Adapted from: Sibbald et al modified from: LeBlanc, Christensen, Orstead, Keast. 2008



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