

Differentiation between incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD) and pressure ulcers category I/II/deep tissue injuries

Incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD)			Pressure ulcers		
	Category I	Category II	Category I	Category II	Deep tissue injuries
Cause	Exposure to urine or faeces		Exposure to pressure or pressure combined with shear		
Location	Area in contact with urine and/or faeces, or skin folds where urine and faeces can accumulate		Usually over a bony prominence or an area submitted to external pressure (e.g. medical device)		
Shape	Diffuse, blotchy, irregular edges		Single areas, distinct edges		
Depth	Intact skin	Partial thickness skin loss	Intact skin	Partial thickness skin loss	Unknown, visual signs of intact skin or partial thickness skin loss
Necrosis	No necrosis		No necrosis		No visual signs of necrosis, although necrosis occurs in subcutaneous tissues
Wound bed	Blanchable or non-blanchable erythema (persistent redness), a variety of tones may be present	Red open wound (granulation tissue)	Non-blanchable erythema	Red open wound (granulation tissue)	Non-blanchable purple or maroon intact skin or open wound, or dark red blood-filled blister
Peri-wound tissue	Pink or white surrounding skin due to maceration		Normal for race/ethnicity		Non-blanchable erythema surrounding the wound may be present
Sensation	Burning, itching, tingling, pain		Sharp pain, usually no itching; pain may worsen when patient is moved off from injured areas		
Odour	Urine/faecal odour, odour associated with infection		None	None unless infected	
Other	Satellite lesions suggest Candida albicans (most common infection)		Redness tends to resolve with offloading or repositioning of device	Ulcer bed is shallow and heals through epithelialisation	<p>May evolve towards a thin blister (with purple or maroon wound bed), and further towards a wound covered by a thin eschar</p> <p>May rapidly evolve towards pressure ulcer category III or IV</p>

Intertriginous dermatitis



Courtesy of Trish Idensohn

Kissing ulcer



Courtesy of Kris Bernaerts

Intertrigo



Courtesy of Kris Bernaerts

Cutaneous herpes



Courtesy of Kris Bernaerts

Infected herpes



Courtesy of Kris Bernaerts

Eczema



Courtesy of Kris Bernaerts

Cutaneous herpes



Courtesy of Kris Bernaerts