
Skin Tears are painful but a largely preventable health care issue.

Skin tears affect all ages and continue to be a common problem in all health care settings. There is information and tools to use in your facilities and at home to help prevent and care for skin tears located on the ISTAP Website.

We would like to invite you to receive a complimentary ISTAP Member Registration and receive the latest information on skin tears in order for you to improve your patient outcomes. Please go to www.skintears.org and join today!!!

Contact email for questions:
info@skintears.org



Working toward a world without skin tears!

A World Without Skin Tears



The **I**nternational **S**kin **T**ear **A**dvisory **P**anel (ISTAP) is an inter-professional collaboration dedicated to improving outcomes for individuals at risk and/or experiencing skin tears across the continuum of care through education, research & advocacy.





Introduction

- Skin tears are acute wounds that have a high risk of becoming complex chronic wounds.
- Skin tears have been reported in the literature to have prevalence rates **equal to or greater than those of pressure ulcers**.
- Although commonly associated with the older adult population, skin tears can also occur in the critically ill, pediatric, and premature neonatal populations.
- A comprehensive risk assessment should include assessment of the individual's general health (chronic/critical disease, polypharmacy, and cognitive, sensory, visual, auditory, and nutritional status),



Tools Available

The ISTAP **Skin Tear Tool Kit** can assist your facility in managing skin tears.

Other tools available to you:

- Assessment and Treatment Pathway
- Risk Assessment Pathway
- Risk Reduction Program
- Decision Algorithm



The ISTAP Skin Tear Classification System should be utilized to ensure a common language for identifying and documenting skin tears.

Type 1: No Skin Loss

Type 2: Partial Flap Loss

Type 3: Total flap loss



Linear or Flap Tear which can be repositioned to cover the wound bed

Partial Flap loss which cannot be repositioned to cover the wound bed

Total Flap loss exposing entire wound bed

The ISTAP participates in global educational events such as conferences and consensus meetings and promotes evidence-based practice in the prevention and treatment of skin tears.

The ISTAP was honored to receive the **Most Progressive Society Award** at the World Union of Wound Healing Societies biannual conference in 2016.

The ISTAP has published numerous articles pertaining to skin tears including: *Skin Tears: State of the Science: Consensus Statements for the Prevention, Prediction, Assessment, and Treatment of Skin Tears*; *International Skin Tear Advisory Panel: Putting it all together, a Tool Kit to aid in the Prevention, Assessment and Treatment of Skin Tears*; *Validation of a New Classification System for Skin Tears*; *The Art of Dressing Selection: A Consensus Statement on Skin Tears and Best Practice*.

In January 2016 ISTAP became an official interest group of the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy (CAET).