

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The ISTAP actively participates in global education 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 Conference in 2016.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL PARTNERS



In January 2016 ISTAP became an official interest group of the Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Contenance Canada (NSWOCC).



In December 2018 ISTAP became an official International Partner of the European Wound Management Association (EWMA).



In 2019 ISTAP became an official partner of the World Union of Wound Healing Society (WUWHS).



In 2019 ISTAP became an official partner of the Journal of Wound Care WUWHS Awards.

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



JOIN TODAY!

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@ISTAP-International-Skin-Tear-Advisory-Panel

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INTERNATIONAL SKIN TEAR ADVISORY PANEL

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.

JOIN TODAY!

www.skintears.org

We would like to invite you to receive a complimentary ISTAP Member Registration and receive the latest information on skin tears, including *Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Skin Tears in Aged Skin (Wounds International, 2018)* in order for you to improve your patient outcomes.

WORKING TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT SKIN TEARS

The International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) is an interprofessional collaboration dedicated to improving outcomes for individuals at risk and/or experiencing skin tears across the continuum of care through education, research & advocacy.

INTRODUCTION

- “A skin tear is a traumatic wound caused by mechanical forces, including removal of adhesives. Severity may vary by depth (not extending through the subcutaneous layer)” LeBlanc et al, 2018
- A loose flap of tissue can result, and can usually be reapproximated.
- Skin tears have a high risk of becoming a complex chronic wound.
- Skin tear prevalence rates are equal to or greater than those of pressure ulcers.
- Skin tears can occur at any age. This includes the older adult, the critically ill, and 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).

ISTAP SKIN TEAR CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

“A skin tear is a traumatic wound caused by mechanical forces, including removal of adhesives. Severity may vary by depth (not extending through the subcutaneous layer).”

LeBlanc et al, 2018

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



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

Type 2: Partial Flap Loss



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

Type 3: Total flap loss



Total Flap loss exposing entire wound bed

LeBlanc et al 2013

Definition of a flap: “A flap in skin tears is defined as a portion of the skin (epidermis/dermis) that is unintentionally separated (partially or fully) from its original place due to shear, friction, and/or blunt force. This concept is not to be confused with tissue that is intentionally detached from its place of origin for therapeutic use e.g. surgical skin grafting” Van Tiggelen et al, 2020

The Skin Tear Classification System can be accessed in several languages online at skintears.org/education/tools, including:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Hebrew
- Italian
- Japanese
- Portuguese
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Turkish

If you’d like the tool translated into another language, please contact info@skintears.org.