

## International Official Partners



ISTAP has formal partnerships with over 20 organizations globally, including European Wound Management Association (EWMA), World Union of Wound Healing Society (WUWHS), and World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET).

For a full list of ISTAP's International Official Partners, please visit: [www.skintears.org/partners](http://www.skintears.org/partners)

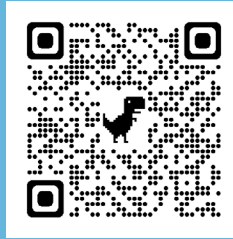
## Tools Available

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

Access other tools available to ISTAP members online at [www.skintears.org](http://www.skintears.org)



**Join Today!**  
[www.skintears.org](http://www.skintears.org)

Join over 4,000 Members across the globe for **free** to receive the latest information on skin tears, including *2020 ISTAP Best Practice Recommendations For Holistic Strategies To Promote and Maintain Skin Integrity* in order for you to improve your patient outcomes.



NURSES SPECIALIZED IN  
WOUND, OSTOMY AND CONTINENCE  
CANADA  
INFIRMIÈRES SPÉCIALISÉES EN  
PLAIES, STOMIES ET CONTINENCE  
CANADA

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



WORKING TOWARDS  
A WORLD  
**WITHOUT  
SKIN TEARS**

[www.skintears.org](http://www.skintears.org)

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## 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.
- A comprehensive risk assessment should be performed. Consult the ISTAP website to access the *Pathway to Assessment/Treatment* and the *Risk Assessment Pathway* at [www.skintears.org/resources](http://www.skintears.org/resources)

## International Skin Tear Advisory Panel

Fragile or thin skin that tears easily can predispose an individual to skin tears.

**Skin tears affect all ages, are painful and are a common problem in all health care settings. Nevertheless skin tears are a preventable health care issue.**

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

Comprised of a **global** panel of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals, ISTAP actively participates in global education and promotes evidence-based practice in the prevention and treatment of skin tears.

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.

[www.skintears.org](http://www.skintears.org)

## ISTAP Skin Tear Classification System

The ISTAP Skin Tear Classification System should be utilized to ensure a common language for identifying and documenting skin tears. The Skin Tear Classification System can be accessed in several languages online at [www.skintears.org/resources](http://www.skintears.org/resources), including:

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

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

If you'd like the tool translated into another language, please contact [info@skintears.org](mailto:info@skintears.org).