Education Hub

Visit the Advancis Education Hub

A dedicated space for healthcare professionals:

- Wound care fundamentals courses
- (CPD) courses
- Wound care application and product usage tips with Tissue Viability Nurses
- Wound and product selection guides
- Wound care research and clinical updates
- Advancis product case studies and clinical evaluations



www.advancis.co.uk/education

ADVANCIS

Skin Tears
Pathway Guide



What are skin tears?

A skin tear, also referred to as a skin laceration, is a traumatic wound that occurs when the top layer of skin separates from the deeper layers. These wounds can vary in depth but typically do not reach the deepest layer of skin. Skin tears can result from various causes, including mechanical forces like friction or shearing, blunt trauma, falls, poor handling, equipment-related injuries, or the removal of adhesive dressings.

Areas of Risk

Upper and Lower limbs with a focus on the back of hands (1)

References:
(1) LeBlanc K, Baranoski S (2011) Skin tears – state of the science: Consensus statements for the prevention, prediction, assessment and treatment of skin tears. Adv Skin Wound Care 24(9): 2-15
(2) Standardizing the classification of skin tears: validity and reliability testing of the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel Classification System in 44 countries, British Journal of Dermatology

Skin tears can be misdiagnosed and poorly documented in clinical practice(2)



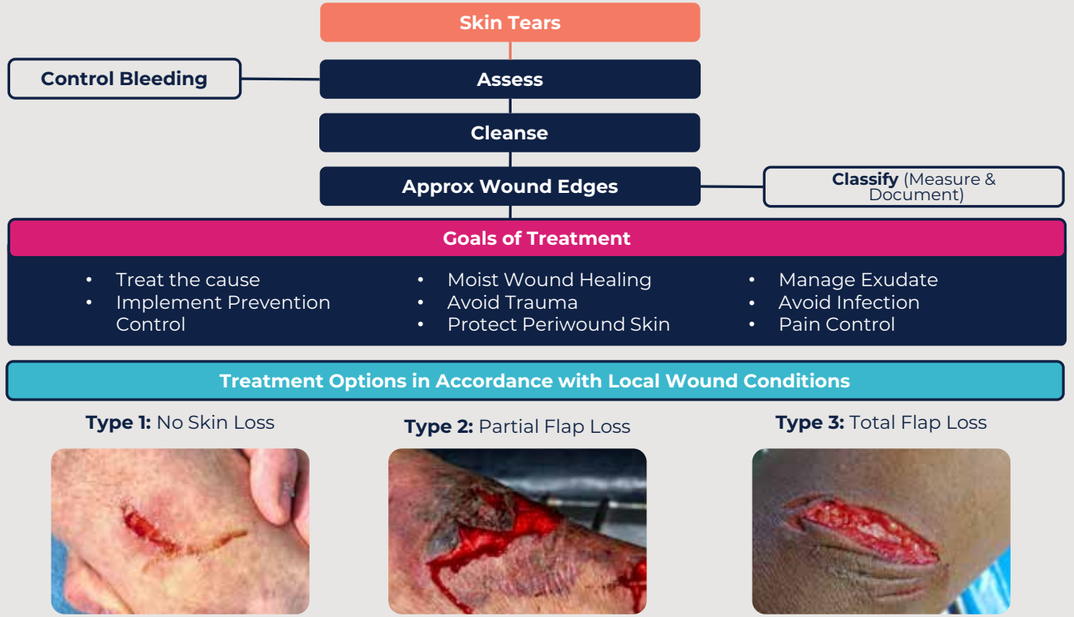








Skin Tear Decision Algorithm(3)



References:
(3) ISTAP pathway to assessment

Skin Tear Pathway

Person with a Skin Tear

Treat the Cause

General Health – Cognitive, sensory, visual, auditory nutrition
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, Approx wound edges, Assess & 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

Non Advancing Edge

Re-evaluate
Consider Active Therapy

Moisture Balance

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

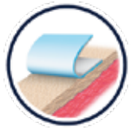
Dressing Selection

Treating skin tears requires a dressing that has the following criteria:



How is Silicone used in advanced woundcare

Silicone is primarily used to reduce or prevent trauma when applying, changing or removing a dressing. The properties of silicone prevent it from adhering to a moist wound bed, whilst providing gentle adhesion to dry peri-wound skin. A border with extra adhesive is sometimes required to keep the dressing in place for a longer term.



Primary function is to reduce trauma



Secondary function is adherence



Minimises trauma whilst retaining optimal levels of adhesion



Contact layers should feature pores

ADVANCIS

ADVAZORB SILFIX

Absorbent foam dressing with soft silicone wound contact layer



Description

Advazorb Silfix combines the excellent fluid handling capabilities of Advazorb with a layer of atraumatic soft silicone adhesive, enabling the dressing to be placed onto the patient whilst a secondary dressing or bandage is applied for retention. Ideally this range is for wounds with low to medium levels of exudate.

The soft silicone ensures that the dressing does not stick to the wet surface of a wound bed or cause trauma to new tissue upon dressing removal. This is particularly suited to those patients with friable or delicate skin and an ideal choice for sensitive wounds as repeated dressing applications will not cause epithelial skin stripping. A bordered version is also available with an acrylic adhesive layer behind the silicone.



Stock Codes	Size	Pack Size	NHSSC Code	PIP Code
CR4177	7.5cm x 7.5cm	10	ELA535	367-0494
CR4178	10cm x 10cm	10	ELA536	367-0502
CR4179	12.5cm x 12.5cm	10	ELA641	367-0510
CR4180	15cm x 15cm	10	ELA538	367-0528
CR4181	10cm x 20cm	10	ELA539	367-0536
CR4182	20cm x 20cm	10	ELA540	367-0544

Suitable for Wound Types:



ADVANCIS

ADVAZORB BORDER

Absorbent foam dressing with soft silicone wound contact layer and border



Description

Advazorb Border is an absorbent, atraumatic, self-adhesive bordered dressing with a unique perforated soft-silicone wound contact layer. This range is ideal for wounds with low to medium levels of exudate.

The silicone wound contact layer has multiple, small 2mm pores which enable the passage of exudate into the absorbent foam whilst protecting the fragile wound bed. This combination ensures the dressings comfortably stay in place whilst minimising the potential for maceration.



Border dressings also available in Lite

Stock Codes	Size	Pack Size	NHSSC Code	PIP Code
CR4190	7.5cm x 7.5cm	10	ELA547	367-0650
CR4191	10cm x 10cm	10	ELA1280	367-0668
CR4192	12.5cm x 12.5cm	10	ELA1267	367-0676
CR4193	15cm x 15cm	10	ELA550	367-0684
CR4194	10cm x 20cm	10	ELA551	367-0692
CR4195	20cm x 20cm	10	ELA552	367-0718
CR4196	10cm x 30cm	10	ELA553	367-0726

Suitable for Wound Types:



ADVANCIS

SILFLEX

Soft silicone wound contact layer

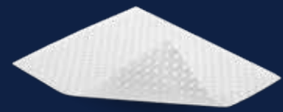


Description

Silflex is a wound contact, non-adherent dressing made from polyester mesh coated with an atraumatic, hydrophobic soft silicone, making it useful for patients with very thin, friable tissue.

Silflex is designed to gently adhere to the skin surrounding a wound and not to the wound bed to reduce the pain and trauma associated with dressing change. With 2mm pore holes Silflex allows the passage of exudate through the dressing.

Due to it's gentle application and removal, Silflex is an ideal solution for treating and preventing skin tears.



Stock Codes	Size	Pack Size	NHSSC Code	PIP Code
CR3922	5cm x 7cm	10	EKH028	338-4385
CR3923	8cm x 10cm	10	EKH029	338-4393
CR3924	12cm x 15cm	10	EKH030	338-4401
CR3925	20cm x 30cm	10	EKH032	338-4419
CR4006	35cm x 60cm	5	EKH096	348-2205

Suitable for Wound Types:

