



Decubitus Ulcer Stages

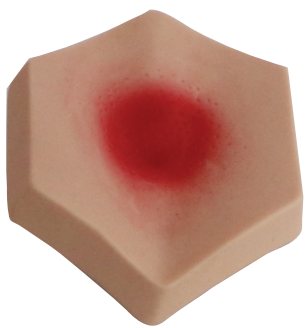
Use the following information from our Geriatric Nursing Manikin's curriculum to learn about decubitus ulcers, or pressure injuries.

What is a Decubitus Ulcer?

A decubitus ulcer (pressure ulcer) is injury to skin and tissue caused by prolonged pressure and inadequate blood supply. Bony prominences on the body are most often affected.

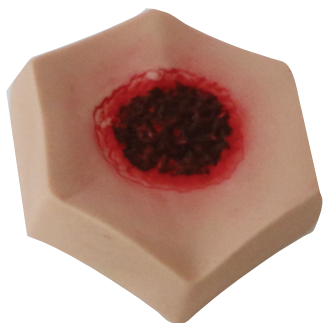
Prevalence

- More than 2.5 million individuals in the U.S. develop decubitus ulcers annually
- 60,000 Americans die each year as a result of ulcer complications
- Costs \$9.1 billion to \$11.6 billion per year



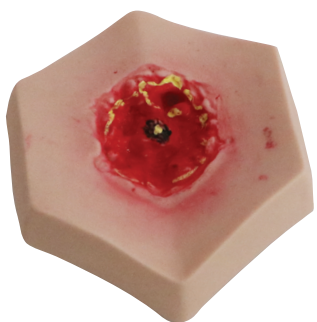
Stage I

- Non-blanchable redness of intact skin
- The area may be painful, firm, soft, warmer, or cooler as compared to adjacent tissue



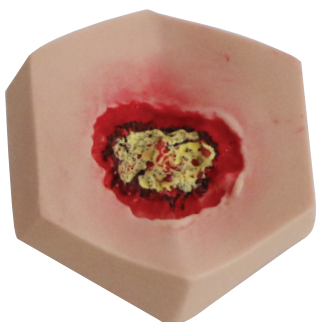
Stage II

- Partial thickness skin loss of dermis
- Presents as a shallow open ulcer with a red pink wound bed or as an intact or open serous-filled or serosanguinous-filled blister



Stage III

- Full thickness skin loss
- Subcutaneous fat may be visible, but bone or muscle are not exposed
 - Depth varies by location
- May have tunneling present



Stage IV

- Full thickness tissue loss with exposed bone or muscle
- The depth varies by the location
- Often has tunneling



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