

# Treatment of superficial skin tears of any size that can be managed within the care home

S<sup>1,2</sup>

Control bleeding and clean



- Select appropriate cleanser
- Assist in bleeding control
- Clean wound if needed



T<sup>1,2</sup>

Tissue alignment



- Align skin flap (where possible) over wound
- Use moistened glove to roll skin flap if able



A<sup>1,2</sup>

Assess and dress



- Consider factors affecting wound healing (holistic health assessment)
- Assess surrounding skin
- Categorise using STAR<sup>1,2</sup> classification
- Select appropriate dressing
- In the direction of the skin flap, draw an arrow on top of the dressing



Category 1a and 1b - Skin flap can be realigned



Category 2a and 2b - Skin flap cannot be realigned



Category 3 - No skin flap

Product solution

**ALLEVYN<sup>®</sup>  
GENTLE BORDER  
Foam Dressing**

For full STAR classification system for reassessment refer overleaf

R<sup>1,2</sup>

Review and re-assess



- Reassess within 5 days unless signs and symptoms of infection, if concerned, or if dressing needs changing (see ALLEVYN When to Change Poster)
- Determine date of wound review and dressing change; document
- Remove the dressing in the direction of the arrow
- Monitor for changes in the wound and exudate
- Assess surrounding skin integrity





# STAR<sup>1,2</sup> skin tear classification chart



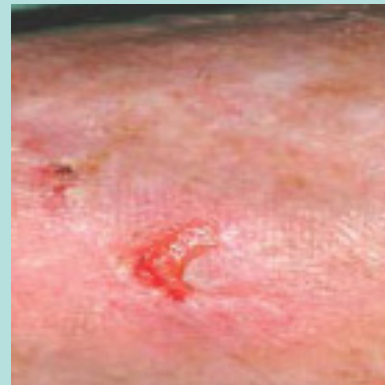
## Category 1a

A skin tear where the edges can be realigned to the normal anatomical position (without undue stretching) and the skin or flap colour is not pale, dusky or darkened



## Category 1b

A skin tear where the edges can be realigned to the normal anatomical position (without undue stretching) and the skin or flap colour is pale, dusky or darkened



## Category 2a

A skin tear where the edges cannot be realigned to the normal anatomical position and the skin or flap colour is not pale, dusky or darkened



## Category 2b

A skin tear where the edges cannot be realigned to the normal anatomical position and the skin or flap colour is pale, dusky or darkened



## Category 3

A skin tear where the skin flap is completely absent

Figure adapted (with permission) from the Skin Tear Audit Research (STAR) photographic library, Silver Chain Nursing Association and School of Nursing and Midwifery, Curtin University of Technology<sup>1</sup>

**References** 1. Carville K, Lewin G, Newall N, et al. STAR: a consensus for skin tear classification. *Primary Intention*. 2007;15(1):18-21, 24-28. 2. Stephen-Haynes J, Carville K. Skin tears made easy. *Wounds International*. 2011;2(4):1-6.

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