

Moisture Lesions vs Pressure Ulcers

Differentiation Between Pressure Ulcers and Moisture Lesions

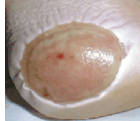
Location

Moisture Lesions



A combination of moisture and friction may cause moisture lesions in skin folds, but most commonly they are present in the anal cleft.

Pressure Ulcers



A pressure ulcer is most likely to occur over a bony prominence.

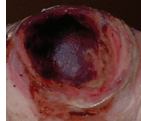
Necrosis

Moisture Lesions



There is no necrosis in a moisture lesion.

Pressure Ulcers



A black necrotic scab on a bony prominence is a pressure ulcer classification 3 or 4.

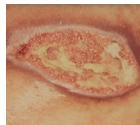
Shape

Moisture Lesions



Diffuse, different superficial spots are more likely to be moisture lesions. In a kissing ulcer (copy lesion) at least one of the wounds is most likely caused by moisture.

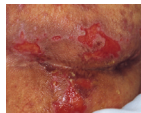
Pressure Ulcers



Circular wounds or wounds with a regular shape are most likely pressure ulcers, however, the possibility of friction injury has to be excluded.

Edges

Moisture Lesions



Moisture lesions often have diffuse or irregular edges

Pressure Ulcers



If the edges are distinct, the lesion is most likely to be a pressure ulcer.

Depth

Moisture Lesions



Moisture lesions are superficial (partial thickness skin loss). In cases where the moisture lesion gets infected, the depth and extent of the lesion can be enlarged.

Pressure Ulcers



Pressure ulcers vary in depth depending on classification.

Colour

Moisture Lesions



If redness is not uniformly distributed, the lesion is likely to be a moisture lesion.

Pressure Ulcers



If redness is non-blanchable, this is most likely a pressure ulcer. For people with darkly pigmented skin, persistent redness may manifest as blue or purple.

www.apuap.org

Defloor T., et al, Differentiation between pressure ulcers and moisture lesions, European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel Reviews, Volume 6, Issue 3, 2005

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skin



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- Cost effective - highly concentrated so a little goes a long way
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- Transparent - allows easy monitoring of skin
- Easy application - single use sterile applicators (1ml and 3ml) and pump action spray for larger areas

To find out more about 3M™ Cavilon™ Skin Care Products contact us at www.cavilon.co.uk or call 0800 616066 (answer phone).

3M

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References:

1. Bale S. The benefits of implementing a new skin care protocol in nursing homes. *Journal of Tissue Viability*, Vol 14 No 2, April 2004.
2. Hart J. Assessment of the incontinence pad blocking potential of 3M Cavilon Durable Barrier Cream compared with Sudocrem and Zinc and Castor Oil. *Nursing Scotland*, July/August 2002.
3. Dr Karin Isenberger, Jan Schuren, RN, BN, OTC, MSc - A comparative study of the Skin Protectant performance of five Barrier Films. 3M Germany Laboratory, Neuss, Germany, 2004.

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