

HINTS AND TIPS

MOISTURE LESION OR PRESSURE ULCER - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



MOISTURE LESION

PRESSURE ULCER

LOCATION

- Anal Cleft
- Perianal Area
- Skin Folds
- Sacrum- due to severe incontinence

- Normally over a bony prominence
- Can occur where soft tissue is compressed by external force (e.g. nasal canula or urinary catheter)

NECROSIS

- No necrosis or eschar present

- Depends upon grade of pressure ulcer
- Black necrotic scab or eschar may be present

SHAPE

- Irregular lesions/diffused edges
- Linear wounds
- Kissing/copy lesions

- Circular/regular shape
- Tear drop

DEPTH

- Superficial wounds
- Can be deeper if infection present

- Depends on grade of pressure ulcer
- Superficial to extensive destructions (bone or tendon)

EDGES

- Irregular, diffused edges

- Distinct defined edge

N.B. Moisture, pressure and shear may be present simultaneously. This is known as a combination lesion. The use of the skin finger test can help exclude pressure as a causative factor.