The Challenge of Skin Tears

Prevention

- Reducing friction and sheering
- Using a draw sheet
- Padding bed rails & equipment edges
- Using paper tape and skin prep
- Using adhesive remover & gently rolling off tape
- Educating patients, families and staff

Category I

- Linear with no tissue loss or,
- Flap with a 10% approximation

Category II

- Scant, not more than 25% tissue loss or,
- Large with more than 25% loss

Category III

- Flap completely missing, total tissue loss

Treatment

- Use normal saline to rinse the wound
- Let area air dry or carefully pat dry
- Gently approximate the flap
- Use a moist, non-adherent dressing
- Place an arrow in the direction of the tear
- Document assessment & treatment

For more information visit:
www.psa.state.pa.us

This poster was adapted from Skin Tears: The Clinical Challenge. PA-PSRS Patient Safety Advisory. September 2006. Vol. 3, No. 3.

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