## Ordering information



- A clinically proven emollient and skin cleanser
- Non-greasy formulation absorbs quickly into the skin
- Suitable for all ages, including babies

#### Mesoft®



- A soft nonwoven material with low fibre release
- Absorbs more fluid and exudate compared to gauze
- Use for cleansing or as a secondary dressing

#### Mepilex® Border Flex



- Safeta C
- Flexible showerproof all-in-one dressing
- Minimises pain and damage at dressing changes<sup>4</sup>
- Contains foam and superabsorbent fibres for high absorption and retention<sup>5</sup>
- Proprietary Flex Technology (Y-shaped Flex cuts) enables 360 stretch for improved stay-on-ability and conformability<sup>6-8</sup>
- The Exudate Progress Monitor on the semi-transparent backing film helps track and record fluid without disturbing the wound?

#### Mepitel® Film



- SafetaC
- A gentle, transparent breathable film dressing for skin protection and fixation
- Minimises pain and damage at dressing changes<sup>2</sup>

# Mepitel® One

- Highly transparent, one-sided soft silicone net
- Minimises pain and trauma at dressing changes<sup>2</sup>
- Can remain in place for up to 14 days to ensure undisturbed wound healing<sup>3</sup>
- Needs secondary absorbent dressing
- Needs extra fixation

#### Mesorb®



- Needs extra fixation
- A soft, highly absorbent dressing
- Its fluid-repellent strike-through barrier helps prevent exudate from soiling clothes and bed linens

#### Mepilex® Border Ag



#### Safeta E

- Showerproof all-in one dressing
- Minimises pain and damage at dressing changes<sup>4</sup>
- For moderately to highly exuding wounds
- Combines excellent exudate management properties with effective antimicrobial action<sup>10</sup>

#### Tubifast® TwoWay Stretch®



- Tubular elastic bandage of viscose
- Holds dressings securely, without constriction or compression
- 5 different widths
- Cut to size

### Proving it every day

At Mölnlycke®, we deliver innovative solutions for managing wounds, improving surgical safety and efficiency and preventing pressure ulcers. Solutions that help achieve better outcomes and are backed by clinical and health-economics evidence.

In everything we do, we are guided by a single purpose: to help healthcare professionals perform at their best. And we're committed to proving it every day.

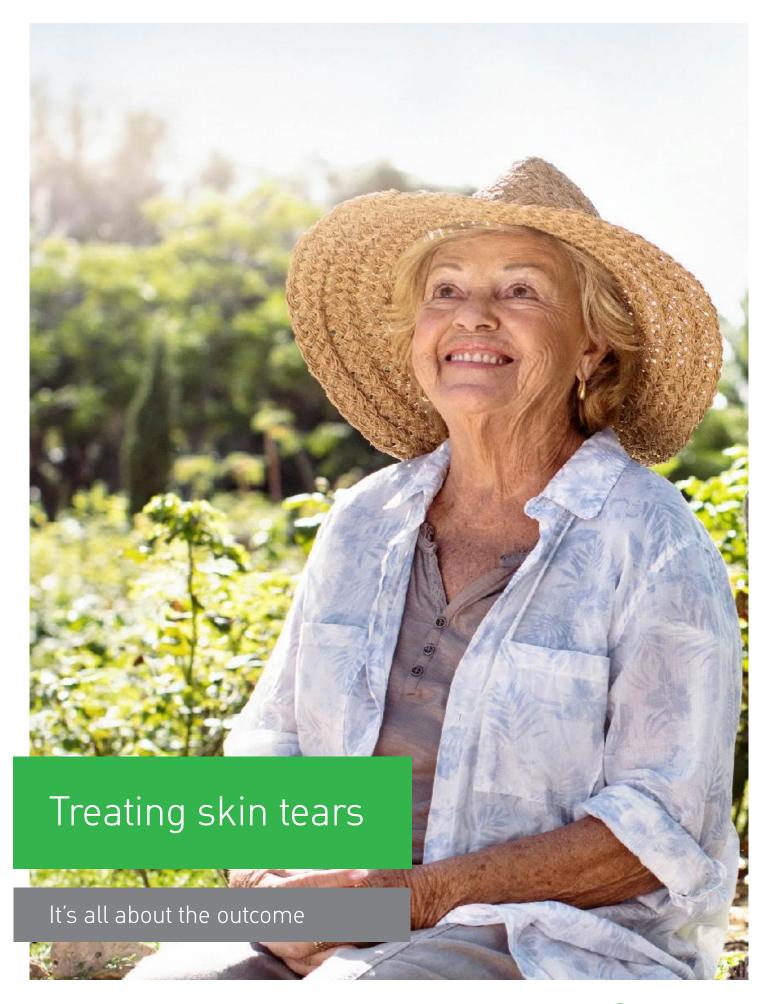
Mölnlycke Health Care would like to acknowledge the following people for their work in developing this guide: Kimberly LeBlanc, MN, RN, CETN (C), PhD (student), President of ISTAP and Karen Campbell, PhD, RN, MScN, President-Elect at ISTAP.

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## A significant problem

#### and how to assess, treat and prevent it

Skin tears are acute wounds with a high risk of becoming complex chronic wounds. They are a significant problem for patients and the healthcare professionals who treat them. With limited published guidance or evidence, these wounds are often misdiagnosed or mismanaged, which may lead to complications including pain, infection and delayed healing<sup>1</sup>.

Estimates of skin tear prevalence differ around the world, but recent studies suggest that they actually occur more frequently than pressure ulcers, with an estimated incidence rate of approximately 15% among patients over the age of 65. It is even estimated that the incidence of skin tears will become one of the largest problems in wound care with an increasing elderly population, although the critically ill, neonates and paediatric populations are also at risk<sup>1</sup>.

An incident rate of

**15.5%** among patients over 65 years<sup>1</sup>.

#### Associations and causes<sup>1</sup>



Majority occur on upper limbs (80%)



Physical environment



Limited mobility



Removal of adhesives, dressings or tapes



Drugs and medications

#### Who is at risk?

Skin tear risk assessment pathway<sup>1</sup>:

#### Skin tear risk assessment

Patient - Wound - Environment

#### Risk categories

#### Skin:

Extremes of age, dry/fragile skin, previous skin tears.

#### Mobility:

History of falls, impaired mobility, dependent activities of daily living, mechanical trauma.

#### General health:

Comorbidities, polypharmacy, impaired cognition (sensory, visual, auditory) and malnutrition.

If patient has 1 or more of the identified risk factors.

#### High risk:

Visual impairment, impaired mobility, dependent ADLs, extremes of age, previous skin tears.

#### Action!

Implement risk reduction program

#### Prevention

Patients suffering from skin tears complain of pain and decreased quality of life. By recognising patients at risk, preventing skin injuries, and using appropriate non-adherent dressings, clinical nurses can spare patients undue pain and suffering<sup>1</sup>.

- Patient assessment using Skin Tear Risk Assessment Pathway
- Implement a Skin Tears Risk Reduction Program
- Create a safe environment (i.e. padding of equipment, adequate lighting, and removal of excess furniture)
- · Long-sleeved clothing
- · Educate individuals and caregivers
- Correct moving and handling techniques

   in line with local policy
- Where possible, reduce or eliminate pressure, shear and friction using pressure-relieving devices and positioning techniques
- Adequate nutrition and hydration
- Applying moisturiser twice daily can reduce the incidence of skin tears by almost 50%

#### Who is ISTAP?

The International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) serves to improve patient outcomes for skin tear prediction, assessment, prevention and management. Their wish is to impact patient lives and unite professionals. Using the ISTAP skin tear classification system ensures a common language for identifying and documenting skin tears.

Learn more about ISTAP and their Skin Tear Tool kit including the detailed pathway to assessment and treatment of skin tears on www.skintears.org.

On www.molnlycke.com, you can find an ISTAPendorsed skin tear training module with a detailed description of how to predict, prevent, assess and manage skin tears.



www.skintears.org

## ISTAP skin tear definition:

ISTAP defines a skin tear as a traumatic wound caused by mechanical forces, including removal of adhesives. Severity may vary by depth (not extending through the subcutaneous layer)<sup>1</sup>.



**Partial-thickness** (separation of the epidermis from the dermis)

or



**Full-thickness** (separation of both the epidermis and dermis from underlying structures)

## Assessment and management of skin tears

The chart outlined below lists ISTAP's recommended consecutive practical steps to help assess and manage skin tears<sup>1</sup>.

#### Initial treatment of the skin tear

Control bleeding
Cleanse/debride the wound
Reapproximate the skin flap

#### Assessment and classification:

Assess the skin tear and surrounding skin Classify

#### ISTAP skin tear classification<sup>1</sup>





Type 1: no skin loss







Type 3: total flap loss

#### Goals of treatment

- 1. Maintain moist wound healing
- 2. Take care of surrounding skin
- 3. Treat and prevent pain
- 4. Be aware of local signs of infection
- 5. Treat oedema
- 6. Ensure sufficient blood flow

#### Apply the dressing



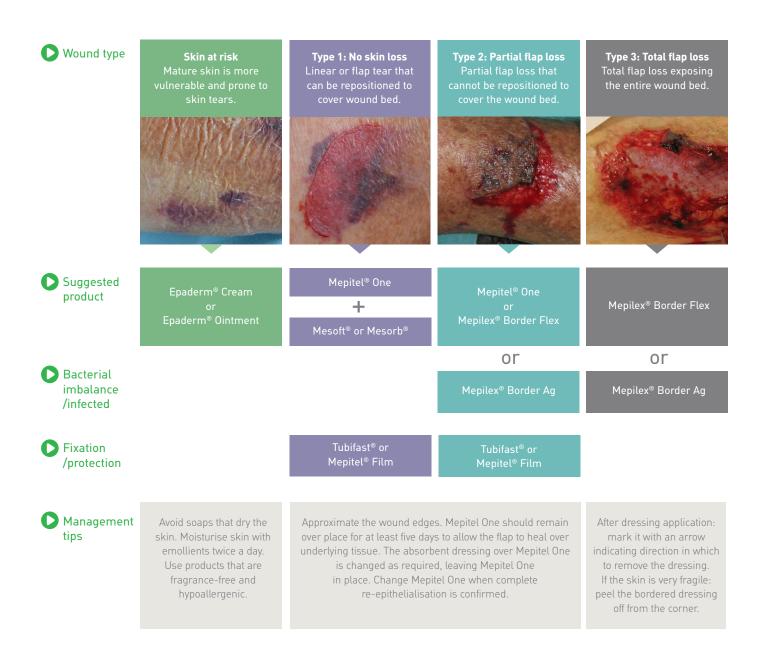


#### Prevention strategies

#### Review and re-assess

## Mölnlycke® dressing selection guide specific to skin tear

When skin tears occur, it is paramount to choose wound care products that will optimise wound healing while minimising the risk of further skin damage.



ISTAP does **NOT** recommend the following products: adhesive closure strips, acrylate adhesive dressings, hydrocolloids and transparent adhesive films, due to risk of skin stripping<sup>1</sup>