



# Steps To Describing A Wound

1. **Anatomic location of the wound**
  - a. provides clues to the etiology of the wound
2. **Extent of tissue loss**
  - a. what is the deepest layer of tissue involvement
  - b. Partial-thickness vs full-thickness wounds heal at a different rate
  - c. helps to accurately utilize classification systems
3. **Characteristics of tissue in the wound base**
  - a. granulation tissue, eschar, slough, fibrin, epithelial, necrotic, crust
4. **Wound size (length x width x depth)**
5. **Presence of tunneling and/or undermining**
6. **Wound exudate**
  - a. quantity - none, mild, moderate, severe
  - b. type - clear, serous, serosanguinous, purulent
7. **Presence of malodor**
8. **Wound edges**
  - a. attached and well-adhered (allows epithelial cells to migrate)
  - b. undermined wound edges
  - c. premature closed edges - epibole (needs to be debrided)
9. **Periwound skin**
10. **Pertinent negatives**
  - a. cardinal signs of infection (erythema, edema, calor of skin, loss of function, edema)
  - b. rule out the presence of fluctuance and crepitus of soft tissues
  - c. assess for secondary signs of infection
    - i. increased exudate, malodor, pale/friable granulation tissue