

Proposed Skin Alteration Assessment Related to Individuals with Dark Skin Tones

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Assessment Flowsheet, Skin Alteration Row			
Assessment:	Changes in:	Additional Documentation Options:	Literature Recommendations:
Tactile	Temperature	<p>“cooler than surrounding tissue”</p> <p>“warmer than surrounding tissue”</p>	<p>“Assess the temperature of skin and soft tissue”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength of Evidence: B1 • Strength of Recommendation: Weak positive <p>“When assessing darkly pigmented skin, consider assessment of skin temperature and sub-epidermal moisture as important adjunct assessment strategies.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength of Evidence: B2 • Strength of Recommendation: Weak positive (EPAUP et al., 2019)
	Texture	<p>“firm”</p> <p>“boggy”</p>	<p>“Assess edema and assess for change in tissue consistency in relation to surrounding tissues.” (Good Practice Statement)</p> <p>“Palpate the skin for induration” regarding physical exam techniques for dark skin tones (NPIAP, 2020, May 21)</p>
	Sensation	<p>“pain”</p>	<p>“Assess localized pain at every skin assessment. Localized pain at pressure points is a risk factor for pressure injuries.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength of Evidence: Good Practice Statement • Implementation considerations from Level 1 study <p>“Ask about pain the area on palpation” regarding physical exam techniques for dark skin tones (NPIAP, 2020, May 21).</p>

B1: Level 1 studies of moderate or low quality and Level 2 studies of high or moderate quality providing direct evidence

B2: Level 2 studies of low quality and Level 3 or 4 studies (regardless of quality) providing direct evidence

Strong positive recommendation: Definitely do it

Weak positive recommendation: Probably do it

Assessment Flowsheet, Skin Alteration Row			
Assessment:	Changes in:	Additional Documentation Options:	Literature Recommendations:
Visual	Discoloration	"black" "blue" "purple"	"Describe skin color and compare to the color of the surrounding skin" regarding physical exam techniques for dark skin tones (NPIAP, 2020, May 21).
	Consistency	"shiny" "taut"	"Inspection of the skin should include a visual inspection in conjunction with other skin assessment techniques such as touch and palpation for differences in temperature and tissue consistency" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength of Evidence: B1 • Strength of Recommendation: Strong Positive • Implementation considerations from a Level 2 study (EPAUP et al., 2019)

Background:

- “At an organizational level, include evidence-based policies, procedures and protocols and standardized documentation systems to reduce the incidence of pressure injuries
 - Strength of Evidence: B1
 - Strength of Recommendation: Strong positive recommendation) (EPUAP et al., 2019)
- “Identifying pressure injury in patients with darkly pigmented skin requires more than inspection” (NPIAP, 2020, May 21)
- “Localized heat, edema/sub-epidermal moisture, change in tissue consistency in relation to surrounding tissue (e.g., induration/hardness), and localized skin pain are all important indicators of pressure damage in skin of darker tones” (EPUAP et al., 2019)

Top Guidelines:

- American College of Physicians (ACP)
- European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel, and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance
- Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN)

References

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