

Observation Index

Developed by The International Ostomy Forum



Ostomy Forum - Observation index

Stoma	Status	Skin	Condition
	Normal ▶ above skin level		Normal ▶ as rest of skin
	Flush ▶ mucosa level with the skin		Erythema ▶ red
	Retracted ▶ below skin level		Macerated ▶ excoriated; moist
	Prolapsed ▶ notable increasing length of stoma		Eroded ▶ excoriated; moist and bleeding
	Hernia ▶ bowel entering parastomal space		Ulcerated ▶ skin defect reaching in to subcutaneous layer
	Stenosis ▶ tightening of stoma orifice		Irritated ▶ irritant causing skin to be inflamed, sore, itchy and red
	Granulomas ▶ nodules/granulation on stoma		Granuloma ▶ nodules/over granulation tissue on skin
	Separation ▶ mucocutaneous separation		Predisposing factors ▶ underlying diseases, e.g. eczema and psoriasis
	Recessed ▶ stoma in a skin fold or a crease		CPD* ▶ greyish, nodules on skin, often caused by urine
	Necrosis ▶ lack of blood supply causing partial or complete tissue death		Infected ▶ e.g. fungus, folliculitis
	Laceration ▶ mucosa that is jagged/torn or ulcerated due to trauma		Others ▶ e.g. Pyoderma gangrenosum
	Oedematous ▶ gross swelling of the stoma		
	Others ▶		

* Chronic Papillomatous Dermatitis

The International Ostomy Forum group was set up in 1995 to identify problems arising before and after stoma formation. Following the initial findings the group developed a standardised observation index as a tool for ET / Stoma Care nurses when assessing stoma and skin. The project is ongoing.

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