

# Woundcare 101

## *A Review for Bedside NICU Nurses*

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## Disclosures

- I am a speaker for Urgo Medical and Kerecis.
- I have no financial interests or relationships with any organizations or companies that could potentially create a conflict of interest for purposes of this lecture.



# Objectives

- Review various wounds which arise in the NICU patient.
- Review important components for proper documentation of a wound
- Present 3 cases to illustrate the necessary components for a wound assessment.
- Review before and after case discussions to illustrate the role of wound care in the NICU



# So What is Wound Care?

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Wound Care - defined as the clinical science dedicated to using advanced wound dressings and techniques to promote wound healing and prevent wounds from arising.



# Adult Wound Care

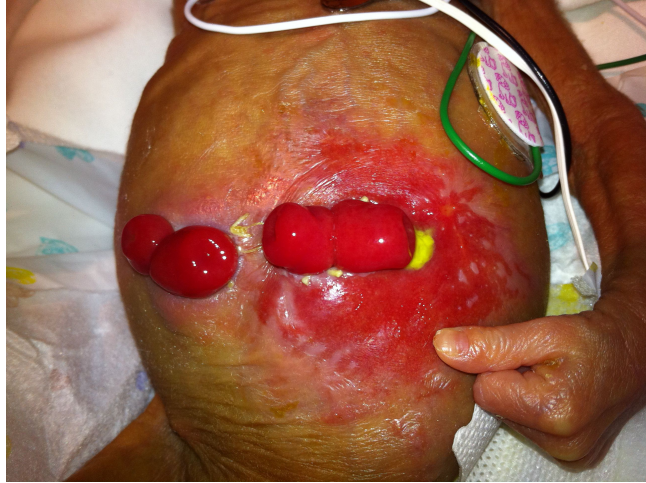
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# Common Neonatal Wounds

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- Contact Irritation
- Surgical Wounds
- Complex Ostomy Care
- Pressure Ulcers
- IV Infiltrates
- Infections





# Contact Irritation

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# Surgical Wounds

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# Complex Ostomy Care



# Pressure Ulcers



# Infections

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# IV Infiltrates

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# Birth Injuries/Congenital Wounds

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Important Factors  
Unique to NICU  
Wound Care

with a new wound”

Me – “Please describe it to me”

Nurse – “It’s a wound... it’s red...  
mom’s mad...please hurry”



# Wound Documentation

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# Components of Wound Description

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Infection/  
Contracture

# Location

- Be as specific as you can when describing the location of the wound.
  - *Right/Left*
  - *Dorsal/Palmer*
  - *Dorsal/Plantar*
  - *Proximal/Distal*
  - *Medial/Lateral*
  - *Superior/Inferior*
  - *Anterior/Posterior*



Palmer surface



Dorsal surface



Plantar Surface



Dorsal Surface



Anterior

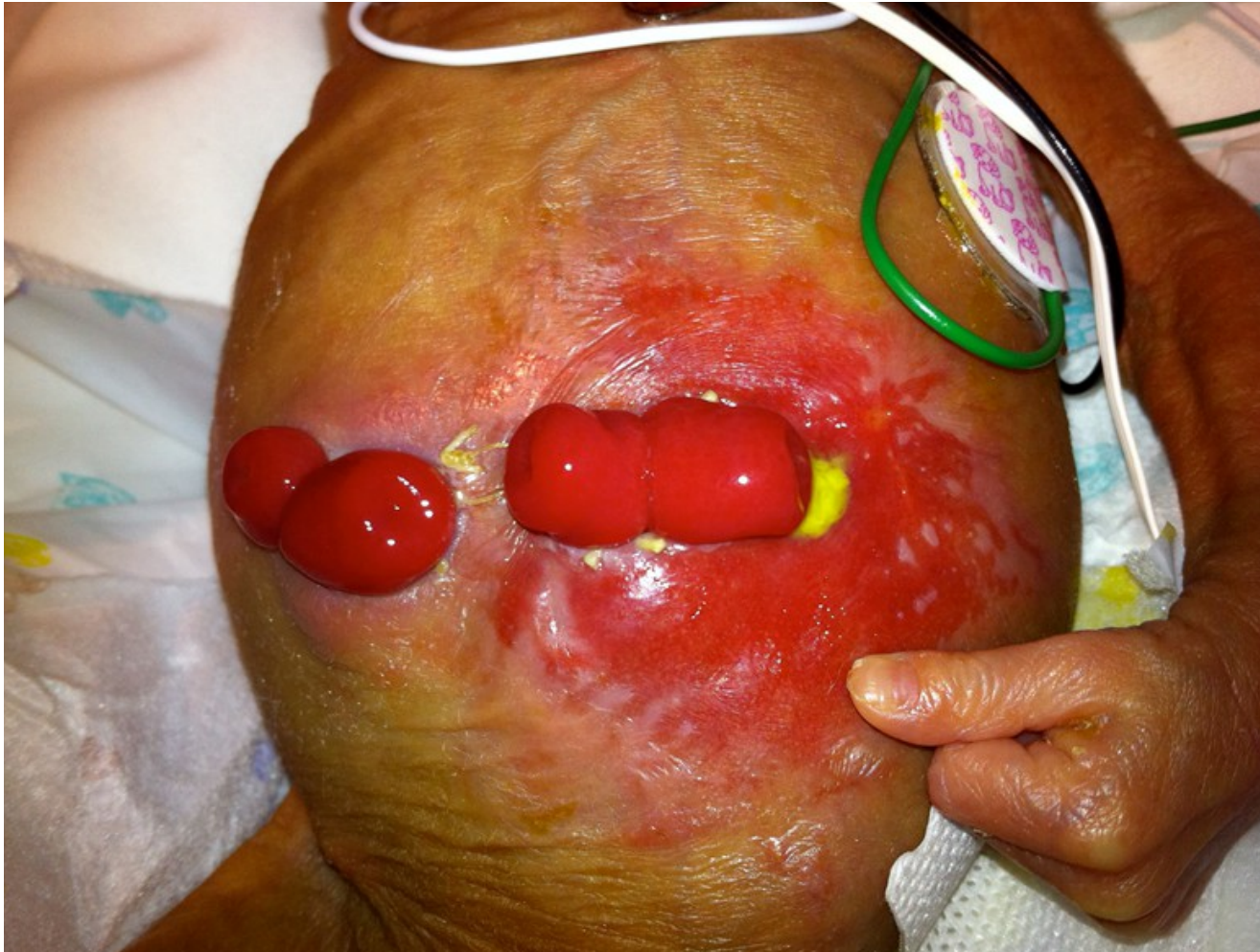


Posterior

## Example #1

Open wound on the medial aspect of the right leg distal to the knee extending inferiorly to above the ankle





## Example #2

Open superficial wound of the left anterior abdominal wall surrounding an ostomy extending inferiorlaterally towards the LLQ.

# Wound Size

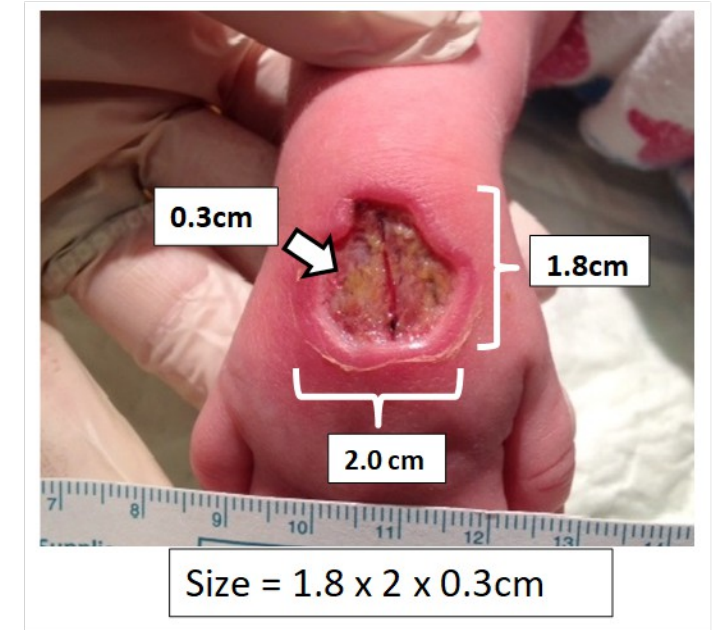
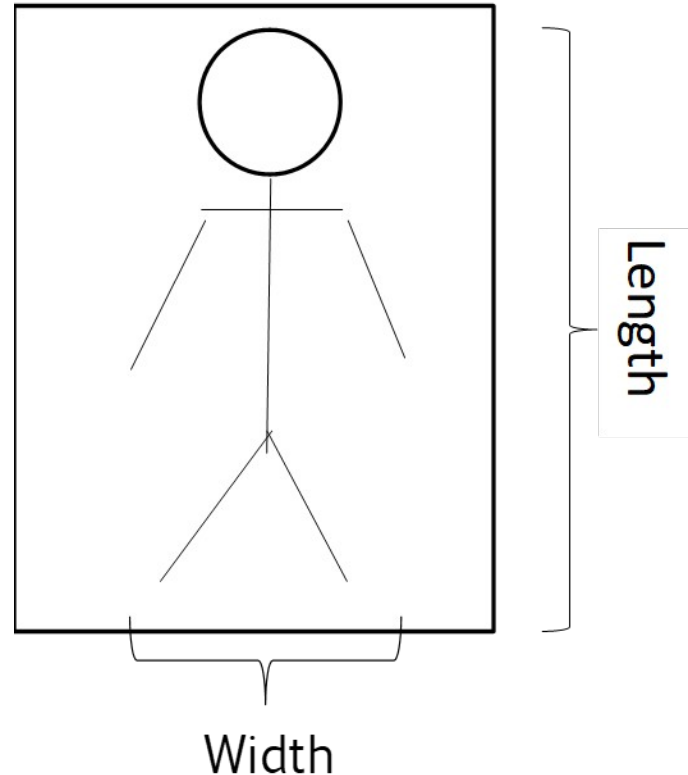
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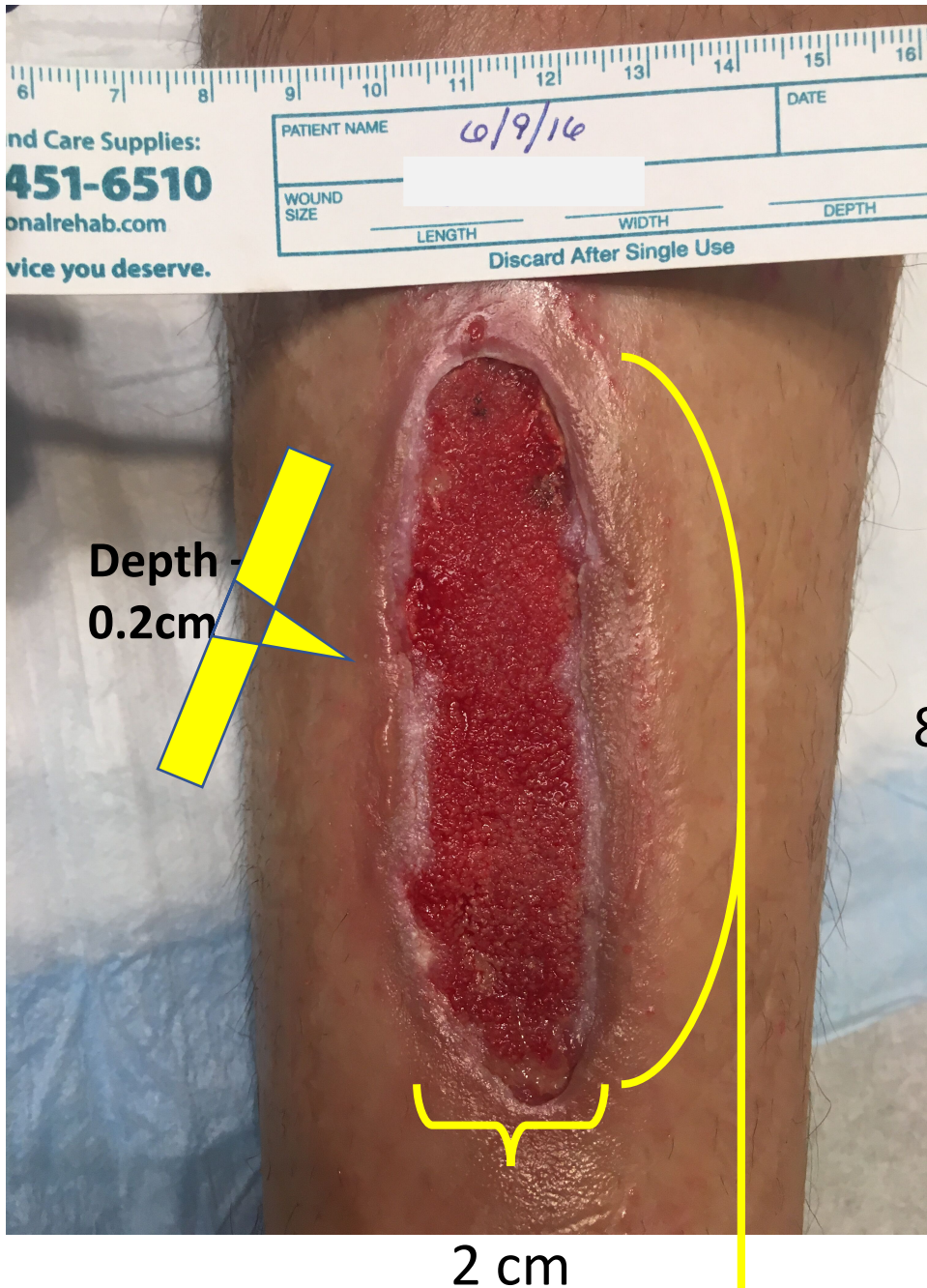
- Integral component to wound assessment
- Critical for objective assessment of treatment.
- Size determines choice of wound dressings
- Size is important factor in determining risk for complications.
- Can be measured using simple ruler.



# Wound Size

- Length is measured Head to Toe, North/South
- Width is measured perpendicular to length – East/West.
- Depth is measured using specialized wound measurement devices or cotton tipped applicators.
- Depth can also be described by the layer of penetration – limited to epidermis, extends past dermis into musculature, visible bone and musculature.
- Documented as L x W x D





Which is correct measurement?

A. 2 x 0.2 x 8.5cm

B. 2 x 8.5 x 0.2cm

C. 8.5 x 0.2 x 2cm

D. 8.5 x 2 x 0.2cm



# Wound Bed

The wound bed - defined as the area of skin, tissue and muscle that is traumatized, necrotic or inflamed and bordered by healthy tissue. Typically comprised of following factors:

- Eschar – hyperpigmented/black, firm nonviable devitalized tissue within the wound bed.
- Necrotic tissue – Nonviable black tissue loosely adherent within the wound bed.
- Slough – nonviable tissue containing proteinaceous tissue, fibrin, neutrophils, bacteria. Typically yellow/white. Gelatinous/slimy.
- Granulation – healthy viable tissue typically pink/red. No overlying epidermis.
- Documentation requires comment on the percentage/presence of these factors in the wound bed.



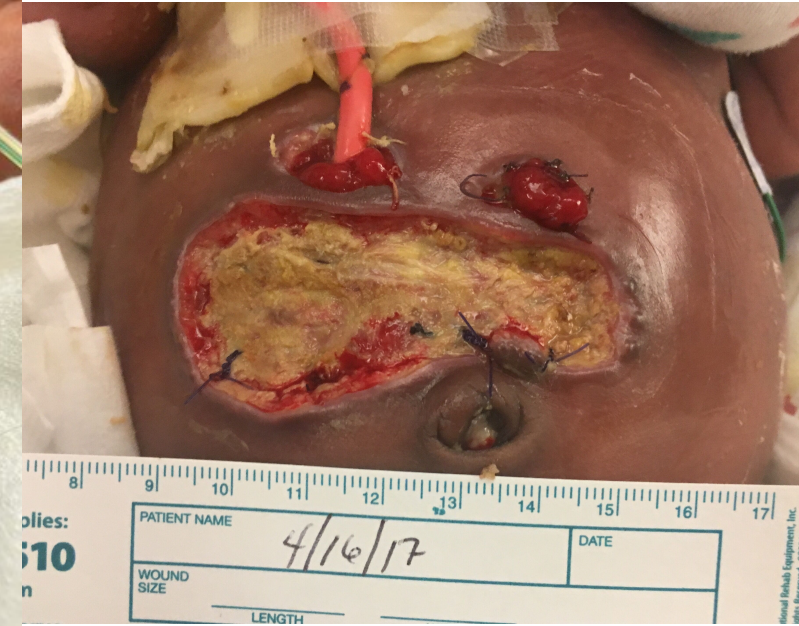
Eschar

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# Necrotic Tissue

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# Slough

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Granulation tissue

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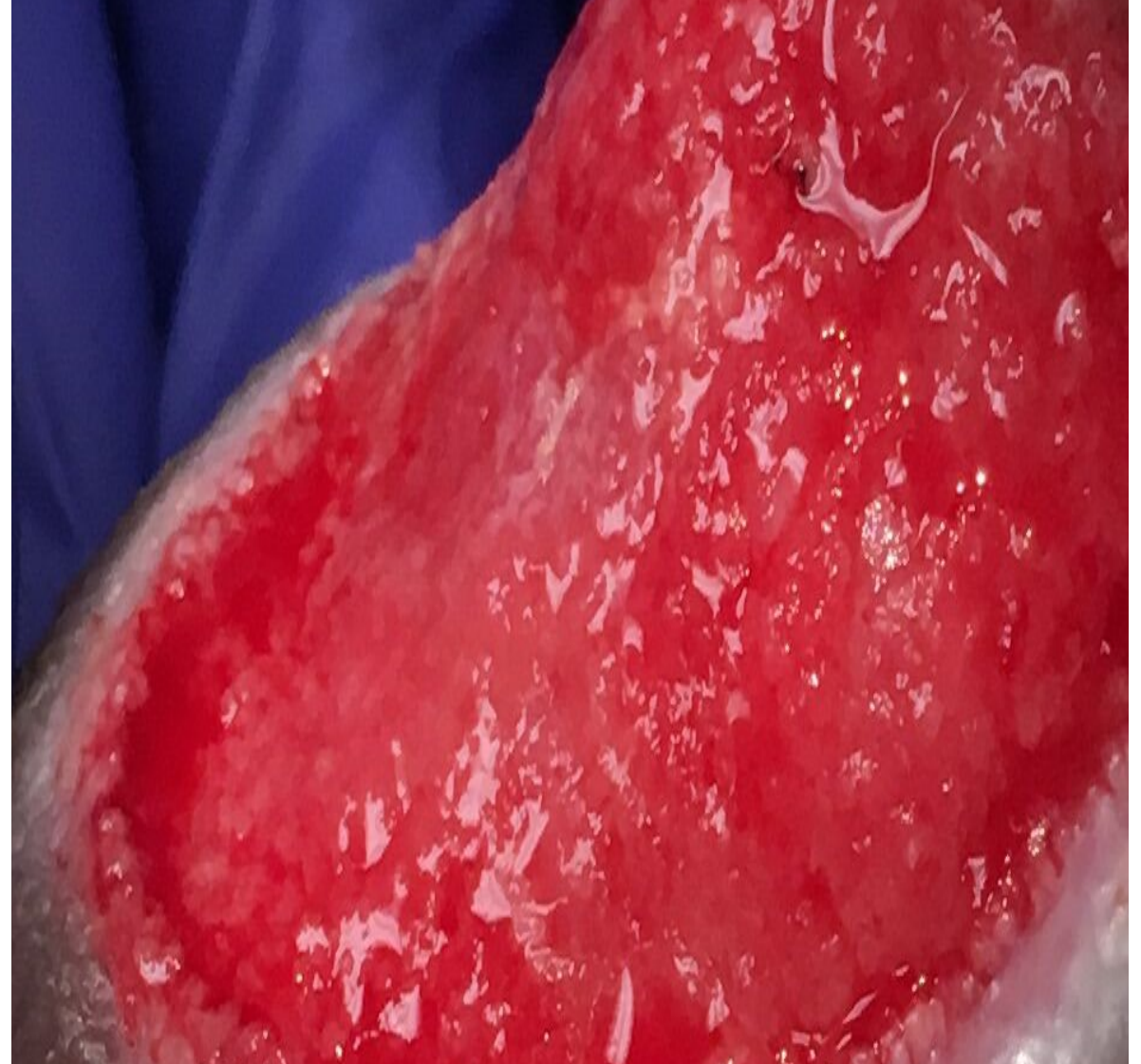
# Wound Edges

The borders of the wound bed require documentation to describe the continuity between the wound bed and adjacent healthy tissue.

- Healthy wound edges present as advancing pink epithelium growing over mature granulated tissue.
- Color - pink edges indicate growth of new tissue; dusky edges indicate hypoxia; and erythema indicates physiological inflammatory response or cellulitis
- Raised - wound edges (where the wound margin is elevated above the surrounding tissue) may indicate pressure, trauma or malignant changes
- Rolled -wound edges (rolled down towards the wound bed) may indicate wound stagnation or wound chronicity
- Contraction - wound edges are coming together, signs of healing

# Wound Edges

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Smooth/Flat/Attached

# Wound Edges

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Smooth/Raised/Attached

# Wound Edges

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Hard/Firm/Calloused

# Wound Edges

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Ragged/Indistinct/Unattached



# Drainage

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Characterized by type and amount



## Drainage: Type

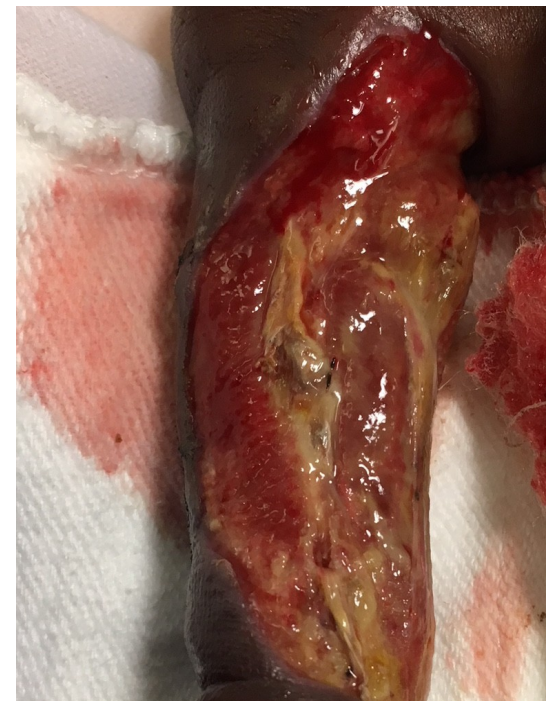
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Serosanguineous, Serous, Purulent, Sanguineous

# Drainage: Amount

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- None – Dry wound bed.
- Scant – Wound tissues are moist. Barely detectable stain on dressing.
- Small – Drainage involves <25% of the overlying dressing.
- Moderate – Drainage saturates the overlying dressing >25% to <75%.
- Large – Wound tissue is completely bathed in fluid drainage.



# Cases and Outcomes



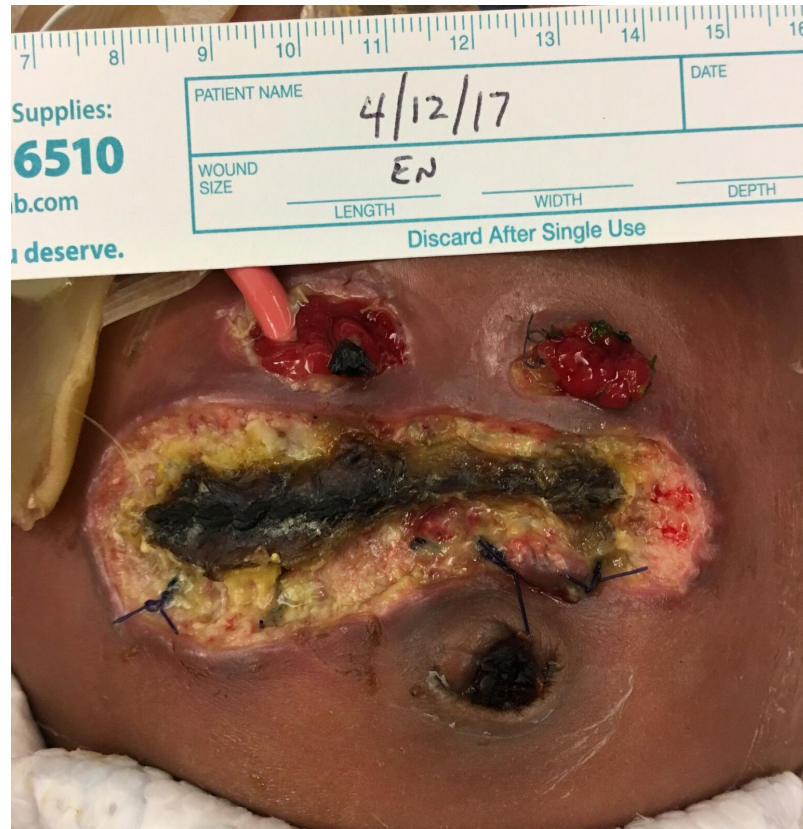
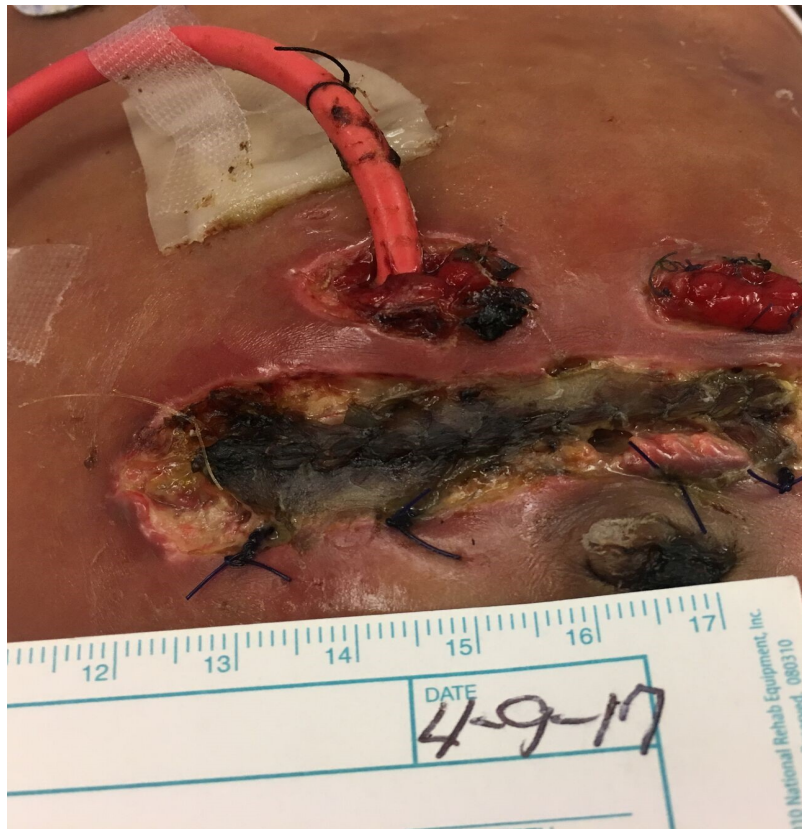
23-week  
preemie  
with invasive  
fungal  
dermatitis



Skin cleansing resulted in active bleeding and severe pain

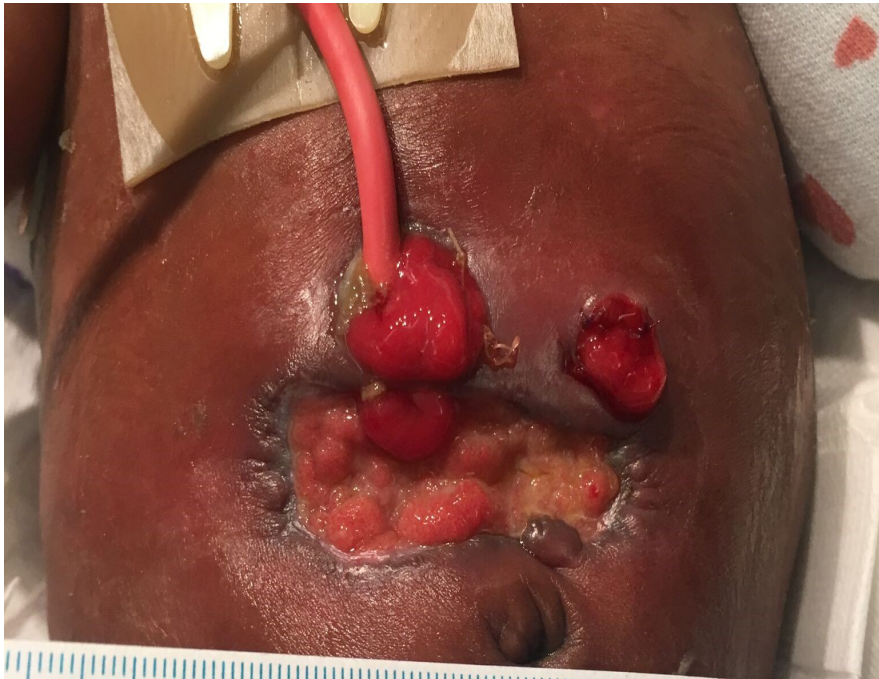
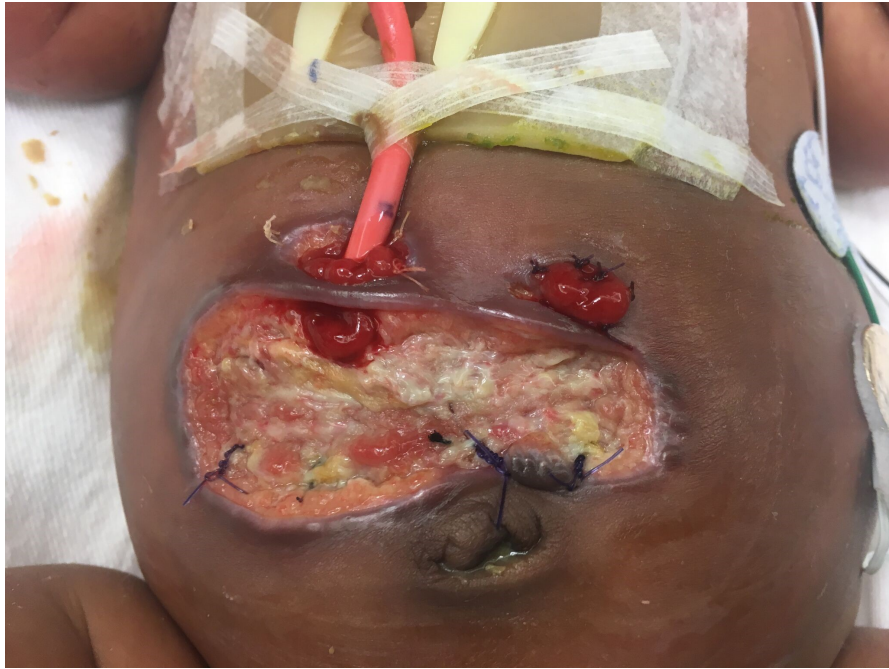






# Abdominal Surgical Wound

15 d/o 36-week preemie with NEC and multiple surgeries for complex bowel resection



Successful  
closure

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## IV Infiltrate

26-week  
premature infant  
female with severe  
IV infiltrate  
secondary to  
Vancomycin





Eschar  
crosshatched using  
scalpel at bedside  
to facilitate  
penetration of  
Leptospermum  
honey into wound  
bed











# Quiz Time

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# Case #1

DOL 30 29 week premature female

Incisional breakdown

POD 10 for anastomosis of small bowel repair.

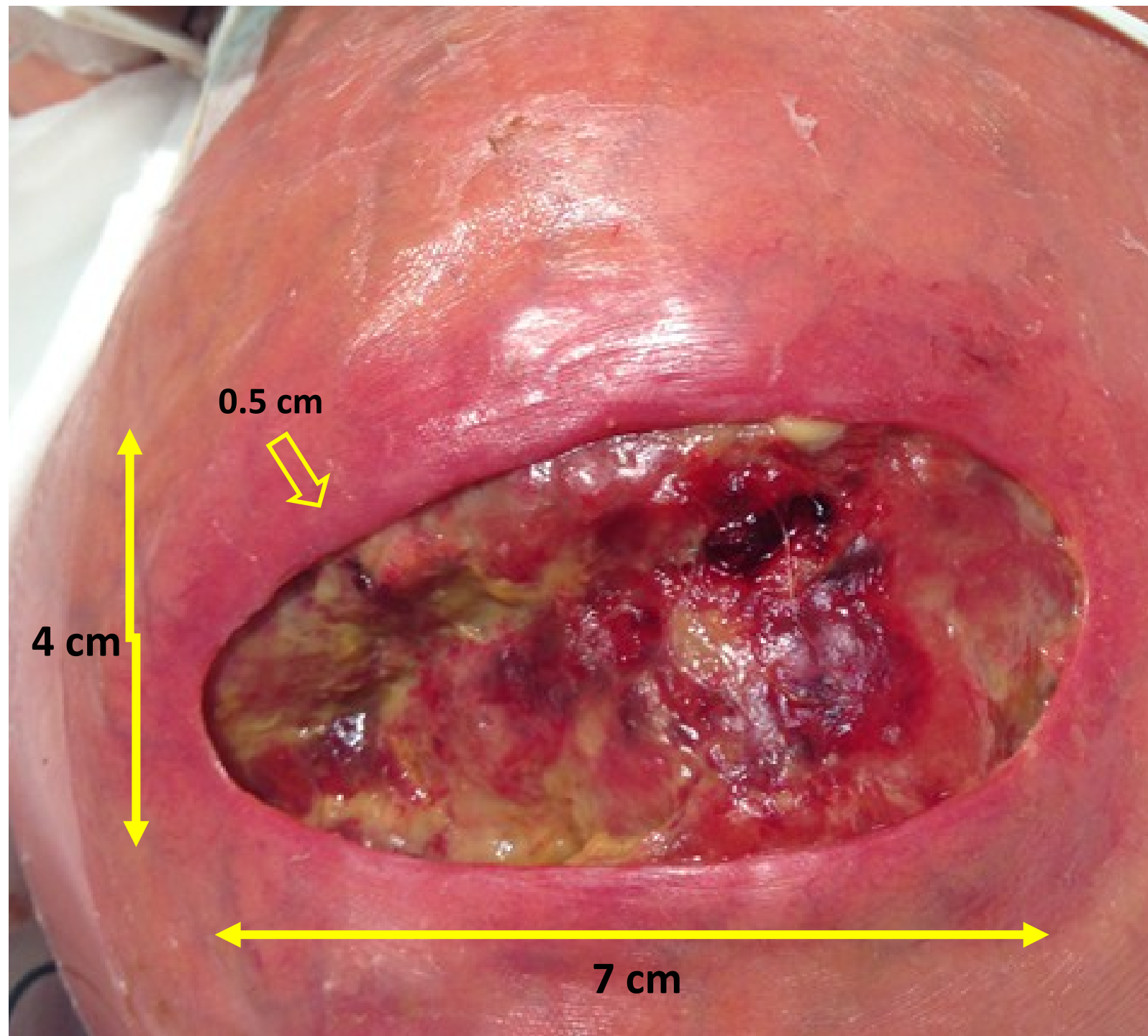
No pressors

NPO on TPN/IL

Stable on convent vent

On abx per surgery

*Describe the Wound*



# Case #2

DOL 7 36-week preterm infant female

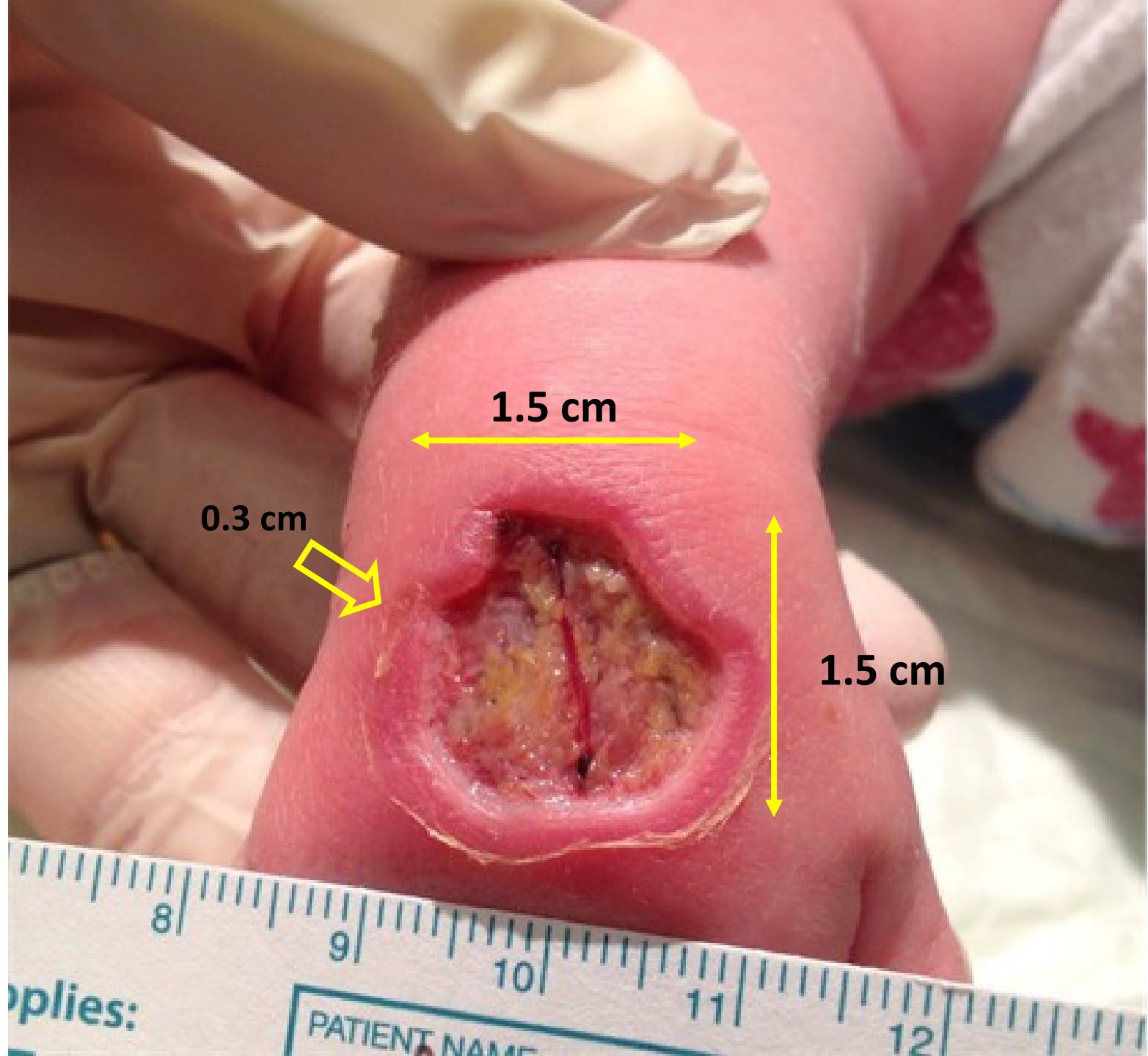
IV Extravasation with Ampicillin

On room air

Full feeds

No pressor support

*Describe the Wound*





## Case #3

## Describe the Wound

9 m/o former 24 week preemie with pressure ulcer

s/p debridement of eschar

Hx for IVH requiring reservoir placement

Hx for NEC but now on full feeds

No cardiac or pulmonary complications

Thank you!

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