

Peri-Wound Skin its Importance in Enabling Wound Healing

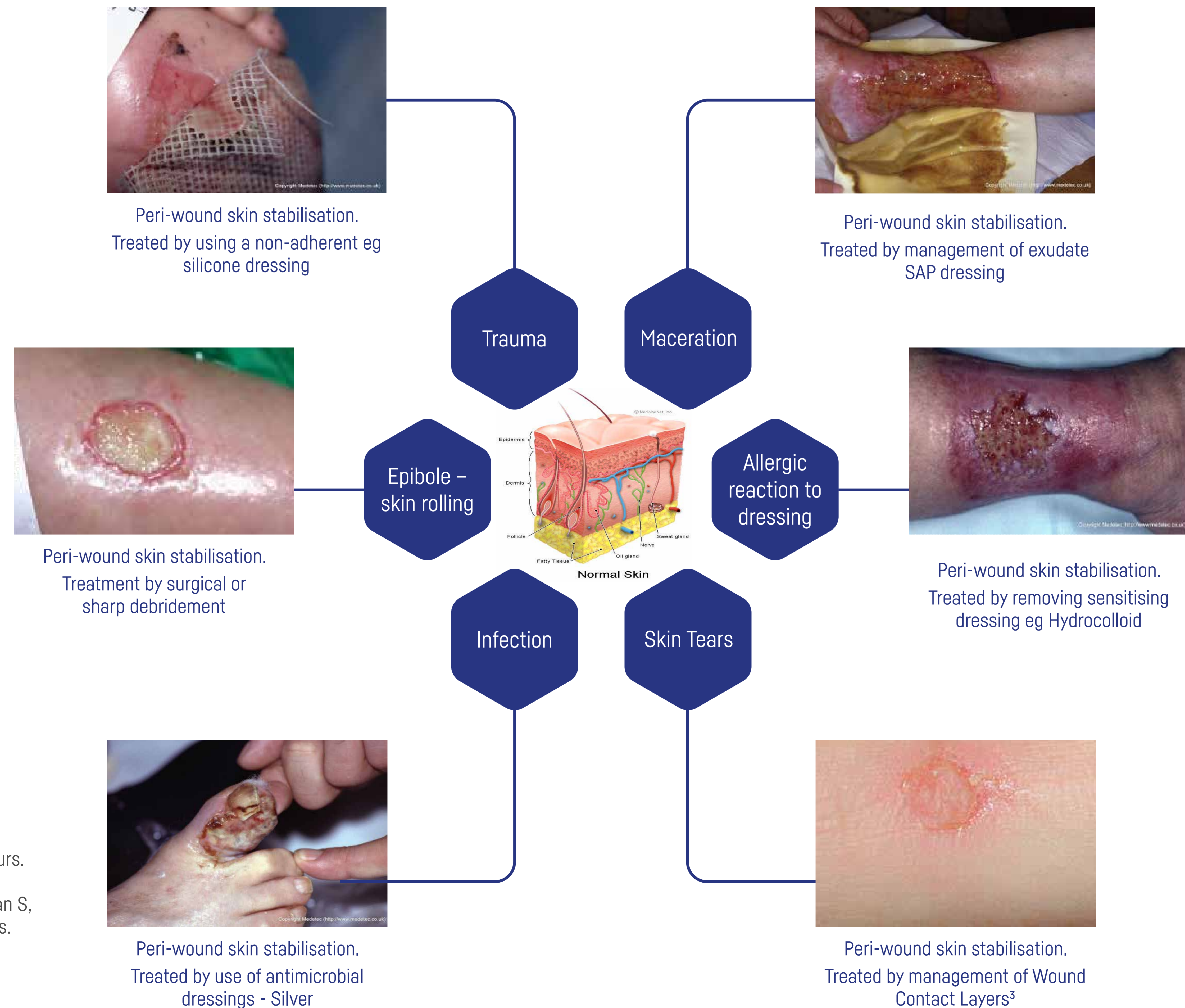
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Introduction

An integral part of the wound healing process is the role that is played by the skin surrounding the wound. This skin provides a structural stability that allows a wound to heal, but also provides cellular (eg. keratinocytes) and biochemical (pro-inflammatory mediators) constituents essential for re-building its structural components¹. Recent studies have demonstrated the importance of peri-wound skin in promoting healing (in patients with VLU) or importantly in that peri-wound skin subject to various insults will delay healing².

References:

1. Stephen-Haynes J. The outcomes of barrier protection in periwound skin and stoma care. Br J Nurs. 2014 Mar 13-26;23(5):S26, S28-30.
2. Hunter SM, Langemo D, Thompson P, Hanson D, Anderson J, Oh IE, Paulson R, Rustvang D, Dorman S, Roth DL. Observations of periwound skin protection in venous ulcers: a comparison of treatments. Adv Skin Wound Care. 2013 Feb;26(2):62-6.
3. Stephen-Haynes J, Carville K. Skin tears Made Easy. Wounds International 2011; 2(4): Available from <http://www.woundsinternational.com>



Conclusion

It is essential that the skin is recognised as a vital part of healing a wound by healthcare workers treating a wound.

Peri-wound skin stabilisation should be highlighted as a necessity not an afterthought.