

## Wound Classifications

<i>Description Status of Skin Integrity</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Implications for Healing</i>
<b>OPEN (external) Wounds involving a break in skin or mucous membranes</b>	Trauma by object or blow (surgical incision, venipuncture, gunshot wound)	Break in skin exposes body to invasion by microorganisms. Loss of blood and body fluids through wound occurs. Function of body part is reduced.
<b>CLOSED (internal) Wound involving no break in skin integrity</b>	Part of body being stuck by blunt object; twisting, straining, or deceleration force against body (bone fracture, tear of visceral organ: ruptured spleen, lacerated liver)	Wound may predispose person to internal hemorrhage. Function of affected body part is reduced.
<b>CAUSE Intentional: wound resulting from therapy</b>	Surgical incision; introduction of needle into body part	Incision is usually performed under aseptic technique to minimize chance of infection. Wound edges are usually smooth and clean.
<b>Unintentional: wound that occurs unexpectedly</b>	Traumatic injury (knife wound, burn)	Wound occurs under unsterile conditions. Wound edges are often jagged.
<b>SEVERITY OF INJURY Superficial: wound that involves only epidermal layer of skin</b>	Result of friction applied to skin surface (abrasion, first-degree burn, shearing)	Break creates risk of infection. Wound does not involve underlying injury to tissues or organs. Blood supply to area is intact.
<b>Penetrating: wound involving break in epidermal skin layer, as well as dermis and deeper tissues or organs.</b>	Foreign object or instrument entering deep into body tissues; usually unintentional (gunshot wound, stab wound)	There is high risk of infection because foreign object is contaminated. Wound may cause internal and external hemorrhage; damage to organs causes temporary or permanent loss of function.
<b>Perforating: penetrating wound in which foreign object enters and exits an internal organ.</b>	Same as above	There is high risk of infection. Nature of injury depends on organ perforated (lung, compromised oxygenation, major vessel, hemorrhage; intestine, contamination of abdominal cavity by feces)
<b>CLEANLINESS Clean</b>	Closed surgical wound that did not enter gastrointestinal, respiratory, or genitourinary tract.	Low risk of infection
<b>Clean/contaminated</b>	Wound entering gastrointestinal, respiratory, or genitourinary systems.	Risk of infection
<b>Contaminated</b>	Open, traumatic wound; surgical wound with break in asepsis.	High risk of infection
<b>Infected</b>	Wound site with pathogens present. Signs of infection	Infected.