

DIABETIC WOUND CHARACTERISTICS

Basics observations of diabetic wounds

Nancy Morgan
WOUND CARE

LOCATION

Plantar aspect of foot
Over metatarsal heads
Heel
Toes
Areas of foot exposed to repetitive trauma
Pressure points over bony prominences



DISTRIBUTION

Isolated, individual lesions



SHAPE

Well defined
Round or oblong



DEPTH

Varies from shallow to deep



WOUND BED

Varies (pale or pink)
Granular
Necrosis may be present
Pale if co-existing arterial disease



SURROUNDING SKIN

Normal skin color
Callused
Dry skin
Fissures
Maceration
Erythema
Edema
Induration (hardened)
Temperature: Skin warm to touch; localized elevation of skin temperature greater than 3° F indicates increased inflammation, infection or Charcot fracture



ASSOCIATED FINDINGS

Diminished or absent sensation in foot
Foot deformities
Osteomyelitis
Palpable pulses
Arterial ischemia
Warm foot

