

## Injury Identification

### Type-Size-Color-Location-Description

#### Type

- **Erythema:** Redness
  - Caused by an increased supply of blood to the skin that dilates normal dermal vessels.
- **Bruise/Contusions:** Skin discoloration caused by direct blunt force to an area that results in ruptured blood vessels and blood leaking under the skin.
  - Color affected by many factors; does not allow for accurate aging of contusion (common misconception)
  - Is NOT the same as Ecchymosis (common misconception)
- **Ecchymosis:** Discoloration under the skin caused by the pooling of blood due to ruptured blood vessels. **Caused by:**
  - A hematological condition caused by a medical diagnosis or medications, (i.e., blood clotting disorders or warfarin use)
  - Blunt force trauma in an area away from the skin discoloration, (i.e., “raccoon eyes” from a basilar skull fracture).
- **Petechiae:** Pinpoint, unraised, round red/purple spots under the skin caused by bleeding from ruptured capillaries.
  - Can be caused by blunt force, asphyxiation/strangulation or illness.
- **Abrasion:** Superficial rubbing or wearing away of the skin caused by friction.
  - Caused by the scraping of the skin against a rough or hard surface.
  - Commonly called a scratch.
- **Laceration:** Injury to tissue characterized by the separating of tissue.
  - Irregular borders/edges
  - Usually caused by tearing, stretching or shearing forces such as those with blunt trauma
  - Is NOT a cut/incision.
- **Cut:** An opening made with a sharp tool or object.
- **Incision:** Surgical cut made into skin or tissue.
- **Patterned Injury:** An injury that has a distinct pattern reproducing the characteristics of the object used.
  - Consistent with the patient’s history (ex: footprint, zip tie marks)
- **Pattern of Injury:** A set of separate injuries believed to have come from the same source.
  - Similar injury repeated in patterned formation.
  - Consistent with the patient’s history (ex: 5 contusions consistent with fingerprint marks)
- **Suction injury:** An injury called by negative pressure applied to tissue.
  - Typically present as a contusion or petechiae
  - Consistent with the patient’s history
- **Ligature mark:** A well-known pressure mark shown on tissue underneath the ligature.
  - Typically present as a contusion or abrasion
  - Consistent with the patient’s history
- **Pain and Tenderness**
  - Injuries that are not always visible; that doesn’t mean they don’t exist.

#### Size

- Use measuring device.
- Can be written length x width or width x length; pick one method and stay consistent

#### Color

- Can be variable.
- CANNOT be used to age an injury during an acute exam.

#### Location

- Anatomical location
- Body maps/Diagrams

#### Description

- The patient’s description of an injury (ex: the patient says, “that’s where I was bit”)
- Description of injury (ex: linear, circular, oblong, faint edges)