

Three Phases of Wound Healing

1) Immediate to 2-5 days; hemostasis and inflammation

Inflammatory Phase

Starts with clot formation and the migration of phagocytic wbc in the wound site. First cells to arrive are neutrophils which ingest and remove bacteria and cellular debris. After 24 hours, macrophages come and ingest cellular debris and play a role in production of growth factors for proliferative phase

Granulation tissue fills any void. Collagen present but oriented vertically. Proliferation of epithelial cells continue leading to thicker epithelial layer

2) Proliferative Phase 2 days to 3 weeks; granulation, contraction, epithelialization

Proliferative Phase

Focus is to build new tissue to fill the wound space. Proliferation of fibroblasts and vascular endothelial cells to form granulation tissue which fills the wound space.

Fibroblasts synthesizes and secretes the collage, proteoglycans, and glycoproteins needed for wound healing. They also produce growth factors that induce angiogenesis and endothelial cell proliferation and migration.

Epithelialization is the final component where epithelial cells at the wound edges proliferate to form a new surface layer. Requires a moist vascular wound.

3) Remodeling Phase 3 weeks to 1 year; collagen formation, increase in tensile strength

Remodeling Phase

Development of the fibrous scar. There is a decrease in vascularity and continued remodelling of scar tissue by simultaneous synthesis of collagen by fibroblasts and lysis by collagenase enzymes. These two processes lead to the scar becoming reoriented to increase its tensile strength.

*Granulation tissue is formed from the proliferation of fibroblasts and vascular endothelial cells. It contains capillaries, fibroblasts and residual inflammatory cells.

*At Day 4-5 of wound healing, the epidermis resumes normal thickness and begins keratinization process.

*Excessive granulation tissue- when it continues to reproduce itself and forms and extends above the border and prevent proper epithelialization. Therefore, the wound cannot heal.

Types of Wound Healing

Primary Intention Healing Healing by a non-infected and uninterrupted surgical incision

Typically held by sutures or other physical support

Not as much cell death or tissue loss, very predictable healing

Second Intention Healing Requires removal of necrotic tissue due to increased cell death

Much slower healing process, leads to scar tissue

Factors Influencing Wound Healing (cont)

Macrophages

-Critical cells because they secrete AGF
-Produce a host of cytokines and growth factors and act as chemoattractants to the other cells needed for tissue repair

-Convert macromolecules to amino acid and sugars necessary for wound healing
-Bring in contractual cells to encourage wound contraction

Wound Healing in short

Vascular Response	hemostasis - Goal is to control bleeding
Inflammatory Response	Inflammation- Goal is to clean debris/bacteria and prevent infection
Proliferative Phase	granulation, epithelialization (the active growth phase). Goal is reconstruction/scar tissue formation
Maturation Phase	reconstructive phase- goal is to remodel

Factors Influencing Wound Healing

Diabetes Poor circulation which slows down the blood which makes it harder to deliver nutrients to wound.

Decreased production of new blood vessels growth and healing hormones

Glucose in blood and urine is energy source for bacteria (leads to infections)

Depression of the antioxidant system and humoral immunity (leads to infections)

Neuropathy. They cannot feel pain so they won't know if a wound is getting worse/infected.

Elevated glucose levels decrease the functioning of red blood cells carrying nutrients to the injured area and limit the effectiveness of white blood cells fighting infections.

The inflammation stage frequently lasts too long and the wound can become chronic. In chronic wounds, the balance between producing and degrading collagen is lost and the wounds don't heal.

Nutrition, perfusion, immune status, infection, age

Wound Environment wound type, size, location, type, depth

Wounds

Definition A wound is a break in the continuity of soft tissues

Caused by a chemical, physical or biological insult

Types of Wounds Incised, lacerated, penetrated, perforating, punctured, gunshot, abrasion, avulsion, bite, ulcerating, granulating, septic/aseptic, closed

Aseptic = clean wound
septic = infected wound



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Page 2 of 2.

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