

Irritated skin tied to pressure injuries in critical care patients

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(HealthDay)—Irritated skin is a risk factor for pressure injuries in

surgical critical care patients, according to a study published in the Nov. 1 issue of the *American Journal of Critical Care*.

Jenny Alderden, Ph.D., from the University of Utah College of Nursing in Salt Lake City, and colleagues retrospectively reviewed [medical records](#) for 5,101 surgical critical care patients at a level I [trauma center](#) and academic medical center to identify factors associated with hospital-acquired [pressure injuries](#) among surgical critical care patients.

The researchers found that independent [risk factors](#) for hospital-acquired pressure injuries included skin irritation (rash or diffuse, nonlocalized redness; odds ratio, 1.788), minimum Braden Scale score (odds ratio, 0.858), and duration of intensive care unit stay before the pressure injury developed (odds ratio, 1.003).

"This study demonstrates the power of using informatics to analyze the vast amounts of data in electronic health records," Alderden said in a statement. "Critical care nurses routinely conduct head-to-toe skin assessments every 12 hours and document changes in condition in the [electronic health record]. Modern informatics approaches enable us to more easily examine large-scale, real-world data available in the health record to gain insights and improve outcomes."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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