

Injuries to the skin

Here is an extract from a medical website.

<p>Mechanical injuries to the skin are divided into those caused by a blunt force, such as a punch from a fist, and those caused by a sharp force, such as a knife.</p> <p>Injuries from blunt forces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An abrasion (also called a graze or a scratch) is a superficial (surface) injury involving only the epidermis, which has been removed by friction. A scratch is linear, as in fingernail scratches, whereas a graze involves a wider area, as in abrasions caused by dragging part of the body over a rough surface. • A contusion (also called a bruise) is an injury that occurs when blood vessels in the skin are damaged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A laceration (also called a tear) is a wound involving both the dermis and epidermis. It is usually distinguished from penetrating or incised wounds by its irregular edges and relative lack of bleeding. <p>Injuries from sharp forces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An incised wound (also called a cut) is a break in the skin where the length of the wound on the surface is greater than the depth of the wound – for example, a wound caused by a razor blade. • The depth of a penetrating wound is greater than the superficial length of the wound – for example, a stab wound caused by a knife.
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Case Report

Read the case report.

Case 2

A 9-year-old boy presented to the Accident and Emergency department after he stumbled and fell while running in a wood. He had received a **blow** to the head from a rock and had been **scratched** by bushes. On examination, a vertical laceration 1 cm long was noted on the bridge of his nose just right of the midline. There were a number of superficial scratches on the right side of his forehead. His right upper lid was mildly **contused**.

Sores

The word **sore** is a popular term for many different types of skin lesion, especially infected lesions. A **pressure sore** is a skin ulcer caused by pressure, for example the pressure of lying in bed for long periods (also known as a **bedsore**, or decubitus ulcer). A **cold sore** is a lesion caused by *herpes simplex*.

Note: The adjective **sore** means painful, for example a **sore throat**.

Write the corresponding medical terms for the ordinary English words and say what kind of force is involved. Look at the above text to help you.

Common word	Medical term	Type of force
bruise		
cut		
graze		
scratch		
stab wound		
tear		

Complete the sentences. Look at the above text to help you.

- 1 Frequent changes of position are necessary in the immobile patient to prevent the development of a pressure _____.
- 2 He had several _____ wounds in the abdomen from the knife.
- 3 He was knocked unconscious by a heavy _____ to the head.
- 4 The wounds were only _____ and required no treatment.

Express your idea.

The police have asked you to examine a man who has been involved in a fight in a restaurant. What type of injuries would you expect to find, and how might they have been caused?