

Radiation-induced dermatitis assessment tool

Part A - Patient to complete

We are interested in some things about you and your skin which lie within the radiotherapy treatment area. This information will help the doctors, nurses and radiation therapists who are treating you. Please answer all the questions by ticking the number that best applies to you.

Hospital ID: _____ MRN: _____

Surname: _____

Given names: _____

Date of birth: _____ Sex: _____ AMO: _____

Pronouns: _____

Preferred names: _____

Date: _____

Patient symptom scale					
Symptom	Description	Not at all	A little	Quite a bit	Very much
Pain	Do you have any tenderness, discomfort or pain of your skin in the treatment area?	1	2	3	4
Itch	Does your skin in the treatment area itch?	1	2	3	4
Burn	Do you have a burning sensation of your skin in the treatment area?	1	2	3	4
Warmth	Does the skin in the treatment area feel warm?	1	2	3	4
Activities of daily living (ADLs)	To what extent has your skin reaction and your symptoms affected your day-to-day activities?	1	2	3	4

Part B - Health professional to complete

Healthcare professional assessment scale

Instructions for use

1. Rate 'erythema' by recording the degree of colour change.
2. Rate 'dry desquamation', 'moist desquamation' and 'necrosis' by evaluating the proportion (%) of the treatment area affected by that particular reaction.
3. Record your gradings (1-4) on the ongoing assessment scale.
4. Record the patient's symptom scale grades on the ongoing assessment scale.
5. Total the scores.

Healthcare professional assessment scale					
Signs	Grading				
Erythema (E)	0 <i>Normal skin</i>	1 <i>Dusty pink</i>	2 <i>Red</i>	3 <i>Brilliant red</i>	4 <i>Deep red/purple</i>
Dry desquamation (DD)	0 <i>Normal skin</i>	1 <25%	2 >25-50%)	3 >50-75%	4 >75-100%
Moist desquamation (MD)	0 <i>Normal skin</i>	1 <25%	2 >25-50%	3 >50-75%	4 >75-100%
Necrosis (N)	0 <i>Normal skin</i>	1 <25%	2 >25-50%	3 >50-75%	4 >75-100%

Descriptors to assist in grading the signs

Erythema (E)

Erythema is an indication of an inflammatory reaction. The initial response is reflected as a pale pink colour. The skin colour may then increase in intensity to slightly red or mottled and it may then develop from a brilliant red into a deep red or purplish colour.

Dry desquamation (DD)

Dry desquamation may follow the initial inflammation. The skin becomes very dry, scaly and flaky. The cells may also become quite dark and at times almost black, before they peel off.

Moist desquamation (MD)

Moist desquamation is characterised by brilliant erythema, the formation of blisters, exudative ulceration and/or loss of the epithelial layers of the skin. Bleeding may also occur.

Acute necrosis (N)

Complete destruction of the epidermis and ulcer formation is very rare. Necrosis is demonstrated by black necrotic tissue or necrotic ulcer formation with complete destruction of the epidermis.

Reference: Adapted from Noble-Adams, R. (1999). "Radiation induced skin reactions. Development of a measurement tool". BJN 8(18): 1208-11.

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