



[Home](#) → [Medical Encyclopedia](#) → Eschar

URL of this page: [//medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002355.htm](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002355.htm)

Eschar

Eschar is dead tissue that forms over healthy skin and then, over time, falls off (sheds). It is caused by a burn or cauterization (destroying tissue with heat or cold, or another method).

An escharotic is a substance (such as acids, alkalis, carbon dioxide, or metallic salts) that causes the tissue to die and fall off.

Alternative Names

Escharotic

References

Chung KK, Friedman BC. Critical care of the severely burned. In: Parrillo JE, Dellinger RP, eds. *Critical Care Medicine: Principles of Diagnosis and Management in the Adult*. 5th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2019:chap 64.

Foncerrada G, Capek KD, Finnerty CC, Lee JO, Herndon DN. Burn wound management. In: Cameron AM, Cameron JL, eds. *Current Surgical Therapy*. 13th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2020:1290-1295.

Taber's Online Medical Dictionary. Eschar.

www.tabers.com/tabersonline/view/Tabers-Dictionary/752803/0/eschar?q=Eschar [<https://www.tabers.com/tabersonline/view/Tabers-Dictionary/752803/0/eschar?q=Eschar>]

. Accessed May 22, 2023.

Wolf SE. Burns. In: Townsend CM Jr, Beauchamp RD, Evers BM, Mattox KL, eds. *Sabiston Textbook of Surgery*. 21st ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2022:chap 20.

Review Date 4/25/2023

Updated by: Charles I. Schwartz, MD, FAAP, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, General Pediatrician at PennCare for Kids, Phoenixville, PA. Also reviewed by David C. Dugdale, MD, Medical Director, Brenda Conaway, Editorial Director, and the A.D.A.M. Editorial team.



Health Content
Provider
06/01/2028

A.D.A.M., Inc. is accredited by [URAC](http://www.urac.org), for Health Content Provider (www.urac.org). URAC's [accreditation program](#) is an independent audit to verify that A.D.A.M. follows rigorous standards of quality and accountability. A.D.A.M. is among the first to achieve this important distinction for online health information and services. Learn more about A.D.A.M.'s [editorial policy](#), [editorial process](#), and [privacy policy](#).

The information provided herein should not be used during any medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. A licensed medical professional should be consulted for diagnosis and treatment of any and all medical conditions. Links to other sites are provided for information only – they do not constitute endorsements of those other sites. No warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, is made as to the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, or correctness of any translations made by a third-party service of the information provided herein into any other language. © 1997-2025 A.D.A.M., a business unit of Ebix, Inc. Any duplication or distribution of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited.



National Library of Medicine 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health