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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/scars.html>

Scars

Also called: Cicatrix, Keloid scar

A scar is a permanent patch of skin that grows over a wound [<https://medlineplus.gov/woundsandinjuries.html>] . It forms when your body heals itself after a cut, scrape, burn, or sore. You can also get scars from surgery that cuts through the skin, infections like chickenpox, or skin conditions like acne [<https://medlineplus.gov/acne.html>] . Scars are often thicker, as well as pinker, redder, or shinier, than the rest of your skin.

How your scar looks depends on:

- How big and deep your wound is
- Where it is
- How long it takes to heal
- Your age
- Your inherited tendency to scar

Scars usually fade over time but never go away completely. If the way a scar looks bothers you, various treatments might minimize it. These include surgical revision, dermabrasion, laser treatments, injections, chemical peels, and creams.

Start Here

- Scars [<https://www.asds.net/skin-experts/skin-conditions/scars>] (American Society for Dermatologic Surgery)

Treatments and Therapies

- Chemical Peels [<https://www.asds.net/skin-experts/skin-treatments/chemical-peels>] (American Society for Dermatologic Surgery)
- Dermabrasion [<https://www.asds.net/skin-experts/skin-treatments/dermabrasion>] (American Society for Dermatologic Surgery)
- Laser Resurfacing [<https://www.asds.net/skin-experts/skin-treatments/laser-resurfacing>] (American Society for Dermatologic Surgery)
- Proper Wound Care: How to Minimize a Scar [<https://www.aad.org/public/everyday-care/injured-skin/burns/wound-care-minimize-scars?NoAds>] (American Academy of Dermatology)
- Scar revision - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100098_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100098_1.htm]
- Scar Revision: Understanding Facial Scar Treatment
[<https://www.aafprs.org/Consumers/Procedures/FacialRejuvenation/Scar/A/FR11.aspx>]
(American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)
- Skin smoothing surgery - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100101_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100101_1.htm]

Related Issues

- Scars and Wounds [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/side-effects/hair-skin-nails/scars-and-wounds.html>] (American Cancer Society)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/como-sobrellevar-el-cancer/efectos-secundarios/piel-cabello-unas/cicatrices-y-heridas.html>]

Specifics

- Acne Scars: Overview [<https://www.aad.org/public/diseases/acne/derm-treat/scars?NoAds>] (American Academy of Dermatology)
- Keloids [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/keloids/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
- Keloids and Hypertrophic Scars [<https://www.aocd.org/page/KeloidsAndHypertroph?>] (American Osteopathic College of Dermatology)

Images

- Before and After Photos: Treatment of Hypertrophic Scars [<https://www.asds.net/skin-experts/skin-conditions/acne-scars>] (American Society for Dermatologic Surgery)
- Keloid [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/keloid/?Imiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Cicatrix [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Cicatrix%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Minimally Invasive Surgery for the Excision and Repair of Cesarean Scar... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40731753>]
- Article: Identifying fibroblast-derived sFRP2 as a therapeutic target and engineering siRNA therapy... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40715133>]
- Article: A meta-analysis of the efficacy of fractional CO₂ laser combined with... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40696684>]
- Scars -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Cicatrix%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- American Academy of Dermatology [<https://www.aad.org/?NoAds>]
- American Society for Dermatologic Surgery [<https://www.asds.net/>]
- Find a Dermatologic Surgeon [<https://www.asds.net/find-a-dermatologic-surgeon/advanced/true>] (American Society for Dermatologic Surgery)
- Find a Dermatologist [<https://find-a-derm.aad.org/>] (American Academy of Dermatology)
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/es/portal-en-espanol>]

Children

- Scars (for Kids) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/scars.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/scars.html>]

Teenagers

- Can Acne Scars Be Removed? [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/acne-scars.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/acne-scars.html>]
- Stretch Marks [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/stretch-marks.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/stretch-marks.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Dermabrasion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002987.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002987.htm>]
- Keloids [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000849.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000849.htm>]
- Scar revision [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002991.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002991.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- [Dermabrasion](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002987.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002987.htm>]
- [Keloids](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000849.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000849.htm>]
- [Scar revision](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002991.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002991.htm>]
- [Scar revision - series](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100098_1.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100098_1.htm]
- [Skin smoothing surgery - series](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100101_1.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100101_1.htm]

Related Health Topics

- [Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery](https://medlineplus.gov/plasticandcosmeticsurgery.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/plasticandcosmeticsurgery.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on Scars is the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<http://www.niams.nih.gov/>]

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