

# UNDERSTANDING FUNGATING WOUNDS

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## WHAT IS A FUNGATING WOUND?

A fungating wound occurs when a tumour breaks the skin and continues to grow outside the skin barrier.



## WHAT TO DO?

- Most fungating wounds will not heal, unless the tumour can be removed with surgery, radiotherapy/chemotherapy, etc..
- For these patients wound care will be based on the symptoms/complications they are facing.

The most common are:

1. Pain
  2. Exudate
  3. Bleeding
  4. Odour
  5. Itchiness
- Varied products can be used to reduce the above symptoms/ complications, but the most important fact is to ensure that an holistic patient assessment is done. A shared decision, with the patient/carer should be made to decide what is the most important factor affecting the patient’s quality of life and focus on that/those factors.
  - These patients will, in many instances, need psychological support, as the wound can be the most impactful aspect of their lives.
  - Ensure the patient/carer knows which support groups are available in their area, as these can have a positive impact on how they manage/live with the wound (apart from the oncological diagnosis).



Patients/carer shouldn't feel alone or that there is nothing else that can be done to support them. A multitude of wound care strategies and products can improve their quality of life. Professional advise can empower them and promote self-care (when appropriate).

A multidisciplinary team approach will lead to better outcomes as well as involving a Specialist Wound Care Nurse.