

# Which Tape Best Prevents Skin Tears in Routine Anesthesia Procedures?

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## Why are skin tears an issue?

Corneal Abrasions and Skin Tears are common perioperative injuries and concerns for patients undergoing anesthesia procedures.

Skin Tears are wounds resulting from shear, friction, or blunt force, causing a separation of skin layers

Adhesive tape used to secure endotracheal tubes and protect eyes while under anesthesia can cause skin tears during tape removal.

Elderly people and patients with delicate skin conditions are particularly vulnerable groups.

Patient positioning and length of surgery create additional challenges.

## Skin Tear Classification

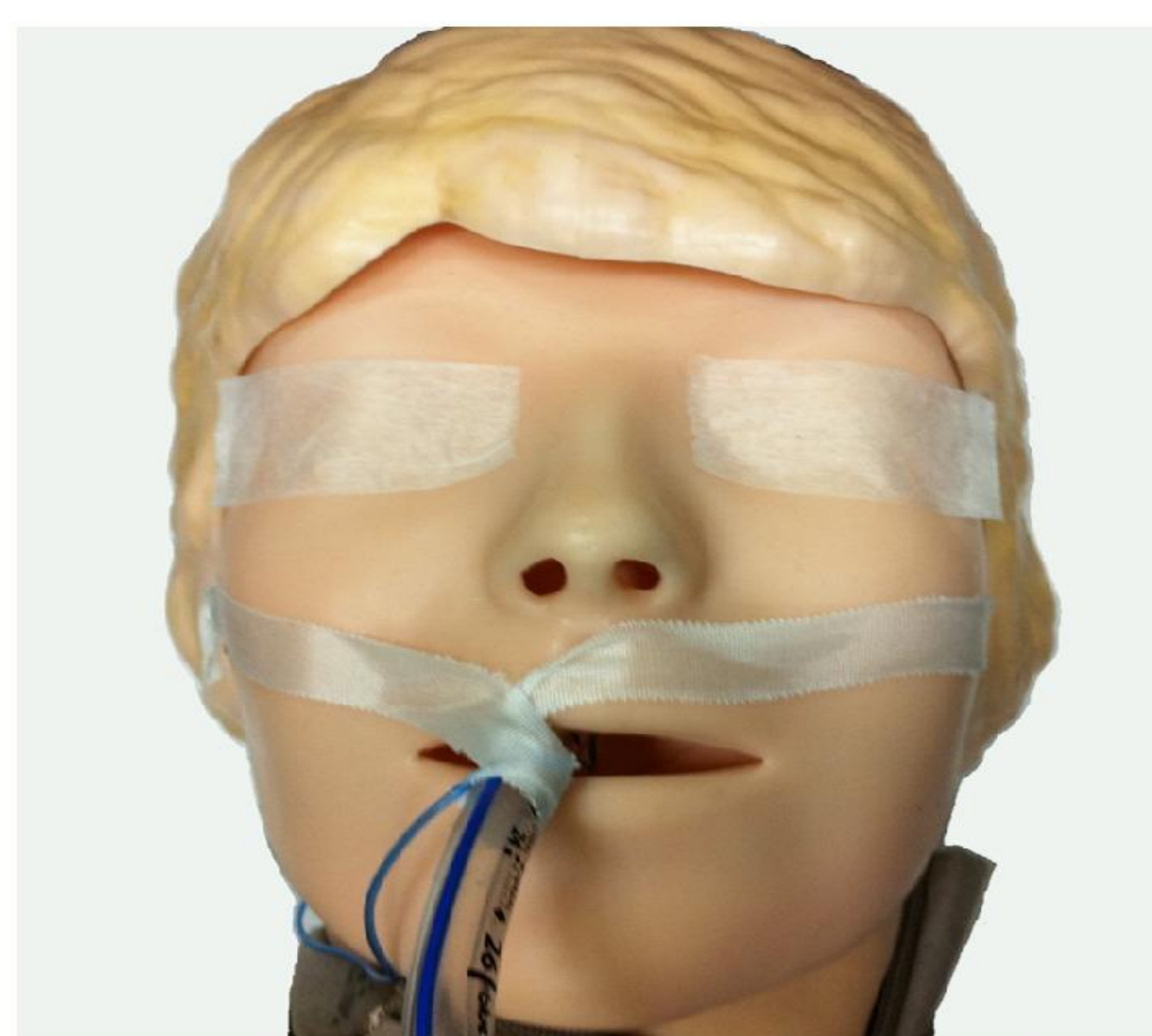
The International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) Skin Tear Classification System.



Linear or Flap\* Tear which can be repositioned to cover the wound bed  
 Partial Flap Loss which cannot be repositioned to cover the wound bed  
 Total Flap Loss exposing entire wound bed

\*A flap in skin tears is defined as a portion of the skin (epidermis/dermis) that is unintentionally separated from its original place due to shear, friction, and/or blunt force. This concept is not to be confused with tissue that is intentionally detached from its place of origin for therapeutic use e.g. surgical skin grafting.

## Comparison of Medical Adhesive Tapes



## Skin Tear Studies and Classification

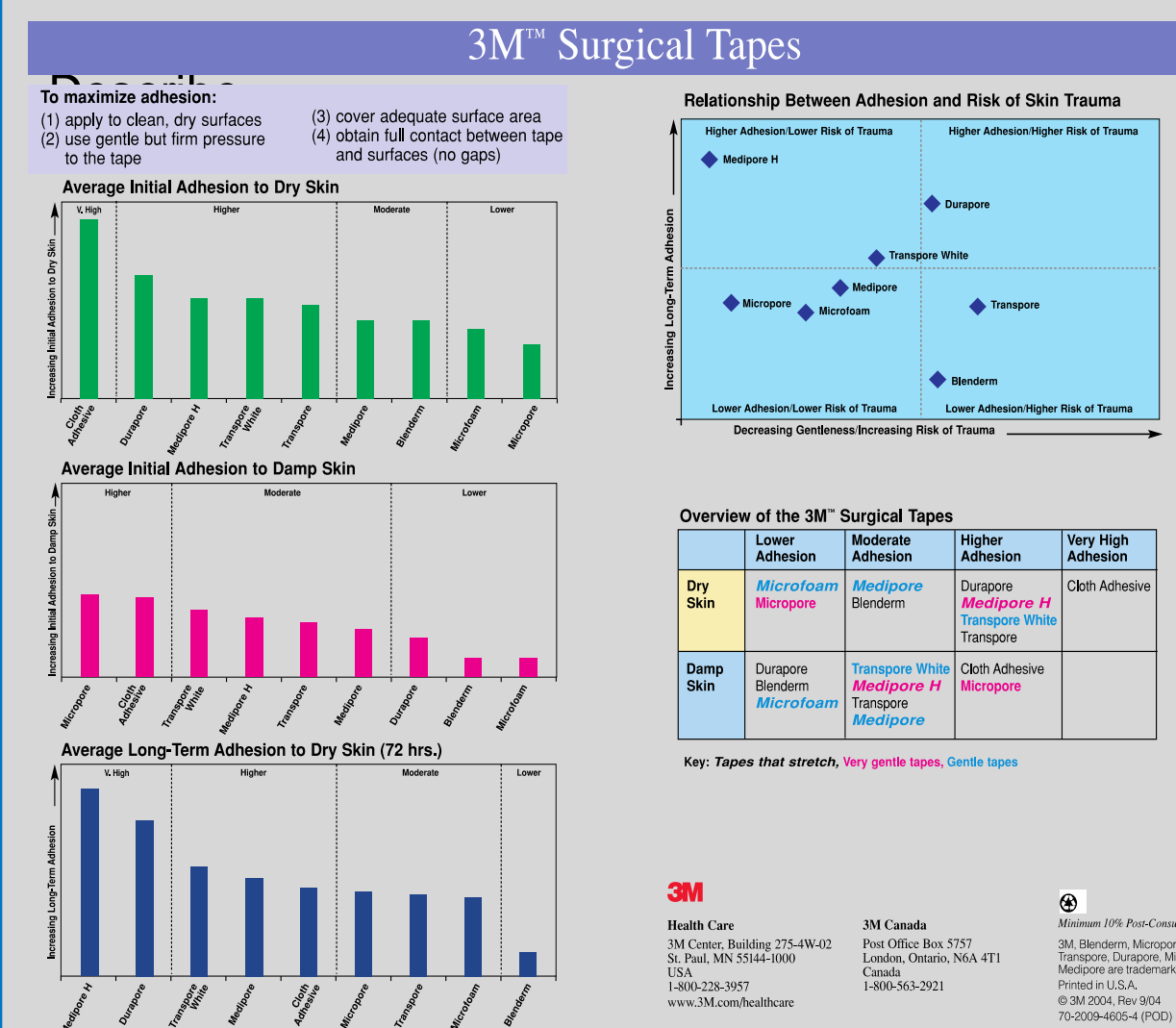
The primary objective of the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) was to develop a quantifiable classification system for qualitative measurements to establish a common language for classification of skin tears.

The findings of their classification system have been further investigated and validated for intrarater reliability among healthcare providers.

## 3M Tape Options for Consideration

3M™ Surgical Tapes—Choose the Correct Tape HYPOALLERGENIC, LATEX FREE, PRESSURE SENSITIVE		
<b>3M™ Blenderm™ Surgical Tape "Waterproof Plastic" Tape</b> Flexible, occlusive, transparent tape made from polyethylene film. For protecting sites from external fluids and contaminants.		Blenderm tape—clear, waterproof
<b>3M™ Micropore™ Surgical Tape "Paper" Tape</b> Gentle, breathable tape with rayon backing. For general dressing applications and repeated taping on fragile, at-risk skin.		Micropore tape—gentle, breathable
<b>3M™ Transpore™ White Dressing Tape</b> Gentle, breathable, multi-purpose tape with a rayon-polyester blend backing. Perforated for quick, bi-directional tear. Easy to handle with gloves. Holds well to dry or damp skin. For securing dressings, tubing, and devices. Great standardization tape.		Transpore White tape—standardization tape
<b>3M™ Transpore™ Surgical Tape "Plastic" Tape</b> Transparent, perforated polyethylene film with bi-directional tear. Easily tears into very thin strips. For securing tubing and dressings that need to be monitored.		Transpore tape—clear, easy bi-directional tear
<b>3M™ Durapore™ Surgical Tape "Silk-like" Tape</b> High strength, conformable, taffeta-backed tape with convenient bi-directional tear. Adheres well to dry skin. For securing bulky dressings, heavier tubing and small splints.		Durapore tape—strong backing, high adhesion to dry skin
<b>3M™ Microfoam™ Surgical Tape "Foam" Tape</b> Highly conformable, water resistant, closed cell foam tape that stretches in all directions. For compression applications and securing dressings in challenging areas.		Microfoam tape—compression, stretch, water resistant
<b>3M™ Medipore™ Family of Soft Cloth Surgical Tapes</b> Soft, gentle, breathable, conformable tapes in easy tear, perforated rolls. No liner or scissors needed. Excellent cross and diagonal stretch. Medipore H tape has stronger adhesion, yet is gentler for repeated taping. For comfortable dressings and securing over areas where skin may stretch.		Medipore family of tapes—soft, comfortable, stretch
<b>3M™ Cloth Adhesive Tape "Latex Free Cloth" Tape</b> High strength, cotton-backed tape with bi-directional tear. Unlike most "cloth adhesive" tapes, this tape is breathable, hypoallergenic, and latex free. For securing medical devices and light immobilization support.		Cloth adhesive tape—breathable, strong, high adhesion, latex free

## Methods and Results



Which tape had decreased incidence of skin injury and higher patient satisfaction?

## Discussion Questions

Can the results of the 3M tape study be further validated using the ISTAP classification system?

Would other tapes yield similar findings?

Can these methods and findings be generalized to other common procedures in the OR?

Would patients with a prior history of skin tears present with similar findings?

## References

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