

Pressure injury prevention in the operating room

It's estimated that postoperative pressure injuries (PI) occur in **19% of surgical patients**¹.

According to the AORN guidelines, tissue damage can continue to progress for up to 5 days following surgery, even after pressure has been relieved².

The impact is real, but the good news is, so are the solutions. With the right steps in place, we can help prevent pressure injuries, support better outcomes for our patients, and cut down on healthcare costs.



Prolonged surgeries: Procedures over 2 hours increase PI risk; over 4 hours triples the risk (AORN, 2025)³.



Age: Patients over 60 face higher hospital-acquired pressure injuries (HAPI) risk; each additional year raises the risk by 6%⁴.



Positioning: PIs are exacerbated by prone or lateral positioning⁵.



BMI: Both high (≥ 35) and low (< 18) BMI increases PI risk⁶.



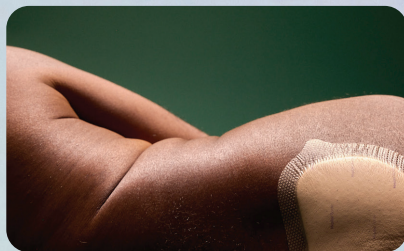
Comorbidities: Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and heart disease can reduce tissue oxygenation, increasing PI risk⁷.



Pharmacologic agents: Vasopressors and inotropic medications can contribute to injury by decreasing peripheral blood flow⁸.

Use proven, evidence-based solutions

Mölnlycke products have been shown to significantly reduce hospital-acquired pressure injuries:



- In a U.S. quality improvement program with 14,000 patients, using the **Mepilex® Border Sacrum & Heel Prevention Bundle** reduced OR-acquired pressure injuries by 75% and cut related costs by 43%⁹.
- **Mepilex® Border Flex** reduced shear stress by up to 80%, protecting vulnerable areas like the iliac crest from multidirectional forces during long procedures¹⁰.
- **Mepilex® Lite** also reduced facial pressure by 70%¹¹, offering better outcomes in prone positioning and extended OR cases.
- **Z-Flo® Fluidized Positioners** are designed for use at multiple anatomical sites and clinical scenarios¹².
- In one hospital-wide initiative, Mölnlycke's pressure injury prevention program reduced rates by 90% — saving the organization more than \$3 million¹³.

By integrating Mölnlycke solutions into your surgical protocols, we can protect patients, reduce complications, and ease the financial burden on healthcare systems.

References

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