

# Pressure ulcer risk factors and prevention in ICU

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# Declaration of Financial Interests

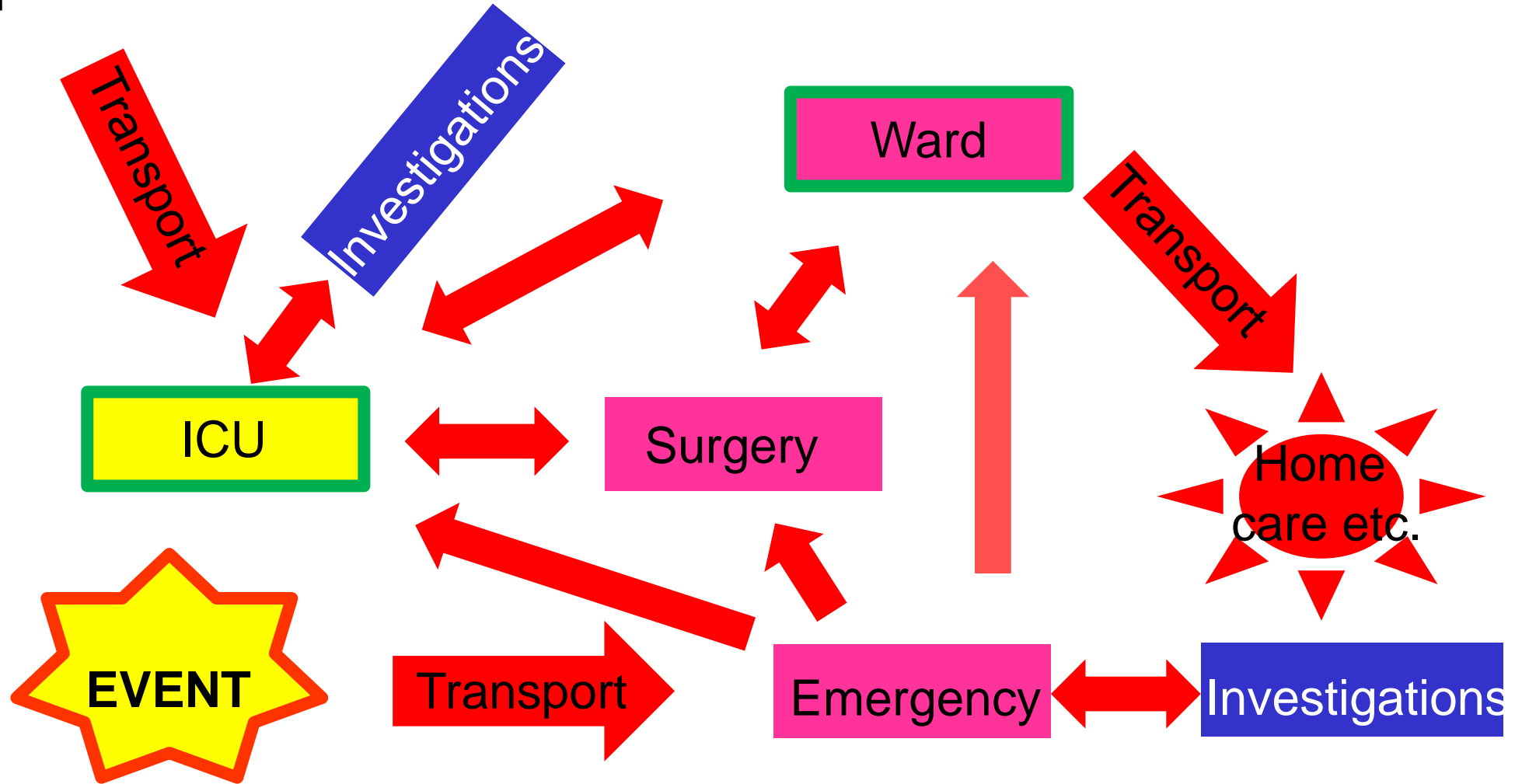
Speaker Name: Maarit Ahtiala

I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose with regard to the subject matter of this presentation.





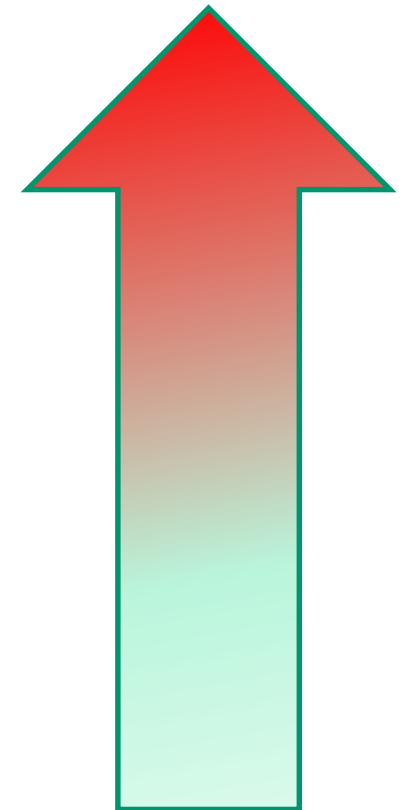
# The patients treatment chain



# Pressure ulcers in ICUs over time

| Reference            | PU incidence*/prevalence (%) | Scale    |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Ahtiala et al 2018   | 4*                           | mJ/C     |
| VanGilder et al 2017 | 3-9*                         | Braden   |
| Becker et al 2017    | 18*                          | Braden   |
| Bly et al 2015       | 31*                          | No scale |
| Ahtiala et al 2010   | 11*                          | mJ/C     |
| Bours et al 2001     | 29                           | Braden   |
| Takala et al 1996    | 54*                          | Norton   |
| Inman et al 1993     | 76*                          | Norton   |

Increased severity  
of patients.  
New patient groups



## **Surveys by VanGilder et al 2008, 2009**

- ~11,000 patients in more than 500 ICUs
- PU incidence varied between 8.8 - 12.3 %

VanGilder et al. OWM 2008, 2009

# General pressure ulcer risk indicators

## Main domains

- Mobility/activity
- Perfusion (including diabetes)
- Skin/pressure ulcer status particularly relating to stage/grade 1
- “Overall there is no single factor which can explain pressure ulcer risk, rather a complex interplay of factors which increase the probability of pressure ulcer development.” Coleman et al 2013.

## Other important domains

- Skin moisture
- Age
- Haematological measures
- Nutrition
- General health status
- *Body temperature and immunity* may be important but require further confirmatory research. There is limited evidence that either race or gender is important.

Coleman et al. Int J Nurs Stud 2013



# Risk factors for PU development in ICU

## *Tayyib et al 2013*

- Older age
- Length of stay (LOS  $\geq$  3 days)
- Norepinephrine infusion
- Prolonged immobility
- *Conclusions:*
  - *Risk factors for potential pressure ulcer development are inconsistent*
  - *No consistent evidence to demonstrate any scale to be better or more effective than another*

Tayyib et al. Nurs Educ Pract 2013 ,  
Tayyib et al. Systematic review ongoing 2018

- *Becker et al 2017 (N=332)*
  - Severity of the patient's condition - Braden score
  - Length of lack of nutrition
  - MV duration
  - Acute renal failure, pneumonia, and the need for vasoactive drugs
- *Bly et al 2016 (N=345)*
  - Any transport off the unit
  - Number of days to mattress change
  - Systolic blood pressure less than 90mmHg
  - Use of more than 1 vasopressor
  - History of pulmonary disease
  - Presence of a feeding tube

# Risk factors for PU development in ICU

**43 significant risk factors were grouped into 6 broad categories**

1. Patient characteristics
2. Comorbidities
3. Intrinsic factors
4. Iatrogenic/Care factors
5. PU risk assessment scales
6. Severity of illness/Mortality risk scales (APACHE II, SAPS II, SOFA)

**Significant factors in multivariate analysis**

- Age (1),
- ICU length of admission (1),
- Diabetes mellitus (2),
- Cardiovascular disease (2),
- Hypotension (3),
- Prolonged mechanical ventilation (4),
- Vasopressor agents (4).

Cox OWM 2017

## Patient demographics Turku ICU

| <b>Gender</b> | <b>PU+</b> | <b>PU-</b> | <b>SUM</b> |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Female</b> | 136 (5.9)  | 2171       | 2307       |
| <b>Male</b>   | 323 (7.9)  | 3746       | 4069       |
| <b>SUM</b>    | 459        | 5917       | 6376       |

$p=0.0029$ ,  $\chi^2$ -test for male PU predominance

| <b>Age</b>     | <b>PU+</b> | <b>PU-</b> | <b>All</b> |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>&lt; 40</b> | 52 (6.6)   | 739        | 791        |
| <b>40-54</b>   | 70 (6.6)   | 986        | 1056       |
| <b>55-70</b>   | 170 (6.6)  | 2401       | 2571       |
| <b>&gt; 70</b> | 139 (7.5)  | 1718       | 1857       |
| <b>Total</b>   | 431        | 5844       | 6275       |

$p=0.0682$ ,  $\chi^2$ -test for increasing age

## PUs and LOS in ICU

| LOS          | PU               | PU          | N           |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | Yes<br>N (%)     | No (N)      |             |
| < 3          | 52 (2.4)         | 2120        | 2172        |
| ≥3*          | 230 (24,5)       | 710         | 940         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>282 (9.1)</b> | <b>2830</b> | <b>3112</b> |

Ahtiala et al 2018 OWM

# Hemoglobin concentration and PU risk

| Hemoglobin<br>(g/l) | Pressure ulcer |                              | All<br>N |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------|
|                     | No, N          | Yes*, N<br>(PU incidence, %) |          |
| < 75                | 181            | 29 (13.8)                    | 210      |
| 75 - 100            | 1054           | 117 (10.0)                   | 1171     |
| > 100               | 1679           | 136 (7.5)                    | 1815     |
| <b>Total N (%)</b>  | 2914           | 282 (8.8)                    | 3196     |

\* P < 0.001

Nixon et al 2006  
Nijs et al 2008  
Beattie et al 2009  
Ahtiala et al 2018

# SOFA and PU development

| SOFA-score   | PU Yes* N (%) | PU No*, N | N    |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| <6           | 55 (18.0)     | 260       | 305  |
| 6-11         | 186 (20.4)    | 724       | 910  |
| ≥12          | 63 (29.2)     | 153       | 216  |
| <b>Total</b> | 304           | 1137      | 1441 |

ICU LOS > 3 days, \* P < 0.001

- SOFA score
  - Respiratory: PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub>
  - Renal: creatinine (μmol/l)
  - Hepatic: bilirubin (μmol/l)
  - Cardiovascular: Hypotension
  - Hematologic: platelet count
  - Neurologic: Glasgow Coma Scale score

Manzano et al 2010  
Ahtiala et al 2018

# Studies on the validity of the scales in ICU

## Seongsook et al 2004

- A comparison of the J/C, Braden, and Douglas Scales included 112 ICU patients.
- They found the specificity (61%) and positive predictive value (51 %) of the J/C scale to be better than those of Braden (26 %; 37 %) and Douglas (18 %; 34 %) scales, respectively.

## Shahin et al 2007

- A comparison of the J/C, Braden, Douglas, Waterlow, and Norton scales included 1150 ICU patients in 7 studies.
- Sensitivity and specificity, which indicate the ability of the scale to differentiate correctly between patients at risk and those not at risk, are unsatisfactory for all scales.

Seongsook et al. Int J Nurs Stud 2004, Shahin et al World Crit Care Nurs 2007

# Modified Jackson / Cubbin risk scale

- Each subcategory is rated linearly as 1 (high risk) and 4 (low risk)
- The maximum score is 48 (low risk) and the minimum score 9 points signifying high risk  
Cut-off point is 29.

1. AGE
2. WEIGHT/TISSUE VIABILITY
3. PAST MEDICAL HISTORY
4. GENERAL SKIN CONDITION
5. MENTAL CONDITION
6. MOBILITY
7. HEMODYNAMICS
8. RESPIRATION
9. OXYGEN REQUIREMENTS
10. NUTRITION
11. INCONTINENCE
12. HYGIENE

Deduct 1 point, if patient has been in surgery or transported to CT, MRI or HBO during the last 48h.

Deduct 1 point, if patient has required blood or clotting factors during last 24h.

Deduct 1 point, if patient has hypothermia of 35°C or under (core temperature).



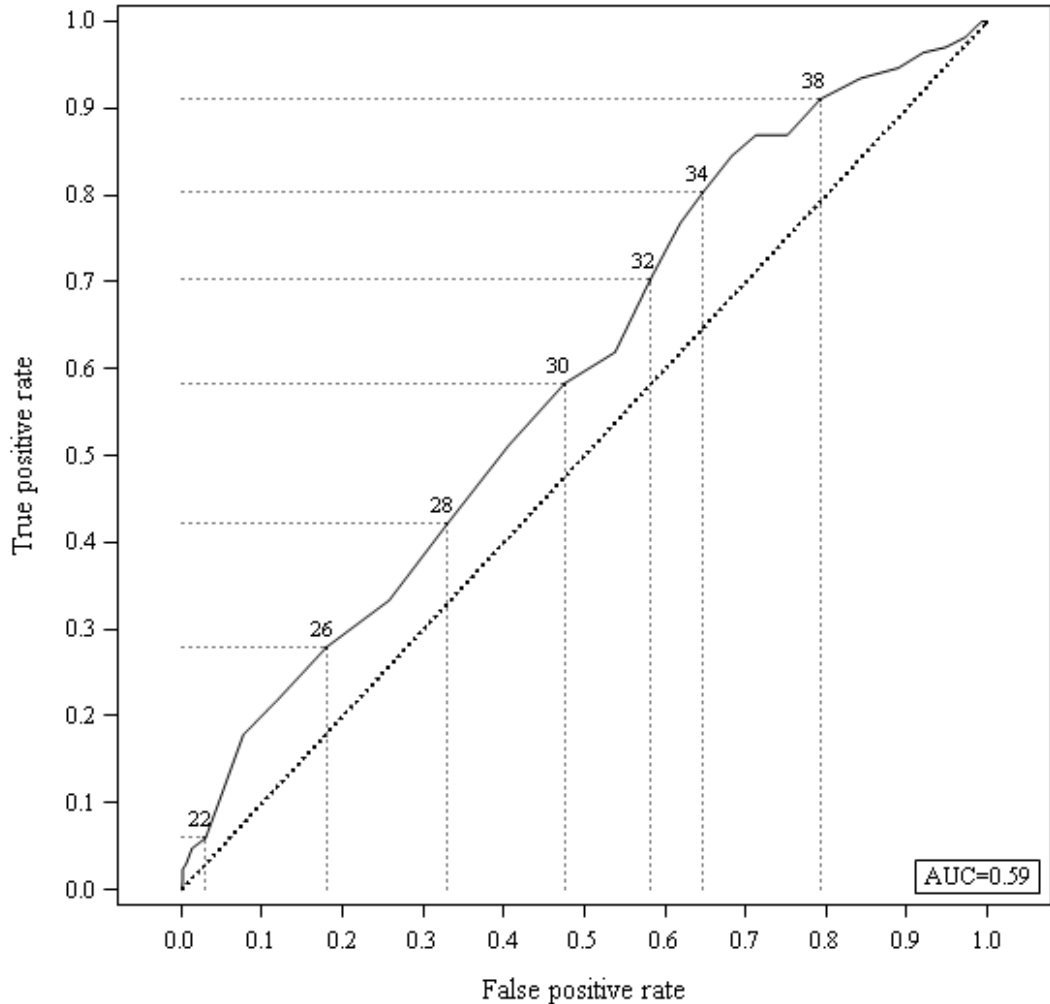
## mJ/C score as PU risk indicator in ICU

| mJ/C score | PUs present-on-admission<br>N (%) | ICU acquired PUs<br>N (%) | No PUs<br>N (%) |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| ≤29        | 236 (59.1)*                       | 232 (64.1)*               | 3380 (47.7)*    |
| ≥30        | 163 (40.9)                        | 130 (35.9)                | 3707(52.3)      |
| Total      | 399 (100)                         | 362 (100)                 | 7087 (100)      |

\* p < 0.0001

# Validity of the modified Jackson/Cubbin risk scale

ROC-curve for mJ/C



Sensitivity specificity,  
PPV and NPV for mJ/C scale

- The sensitivity 58.3
- The specificity 52.4
- The positive predictive value (PPV) was 12.8
- The negative predictive value (NPV) was 91.3

| Year           | Total number of patients | PU incidence % (N) | Proportion of patients with mJ/C score $\leq$ 29# | SOFA score & mean (SD) |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| 2010           | 1629                     | 11.1 (181)         | 49.6 %  | 6.9 (3.2)              |
| 2011           | 1633                     | 6.2 (101)          | 48.8 %  | 6.8 (3.2)              |
| 2012           | 1637                     | 6.6 (108)          | 50.1 %  | 7.0 (3.2)              |
| 2013           | 1683                     | 4.4 (74)           | 51.5 %  | 7.2 (3.3)              |
| 2014           | 1689                     | 3.4 (58)           | 52.0 %  | 7.1 (3.1)              |
| 2015           | 1694                     | 3.7 (62)           | 50.2 %  | 7.4 (3.2)              |
| <b>Overall</b> | <b>9965</b>              | <b>5.9 (584)</b>   | <b>50.4 %</b>                                     | <b>7.1 (3.2)</b>       |

Ahtiala et al. 2019 submitted

| Diagnostic group                                | PUs present-on-admission<br>(Prevalence %) |              | ICU acquired PUs<br>(Incidence %) |             | No PUs    |           | All<br>(Distribution %) |               |
|---|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   | 2011 - 2013                                | 2014 - 2015  | 2011 - 2013                       | 2014-2015   | 2011-2013 | 2014-2015 | 2011-2013               | 2014-2015     |
| <b>Infections including sepsis and DIC&amp;</b> | 20<br>(13.0)                               | 18<br>(13.5) | 21<br>(13.6)                      | 7<br>(5.3)  | 113       | 108       | 154<br>(3.1)            | 133<br>(3.9)  |
| Heart failure                                   | 4<br>(7.2)                                 | 3<br>(6.7)   | 6<br>(10.9)                       | 4<br>(8.8)  | 45        | 38        | 55<br>(1.1)             | 45<br>(1.3)   |
| <b>Abdominal diseases</b>                       | 9<br>(3.6)                                 | 24<br>(11.5) | 25<br>(10.1)                      | 12<br>(5.8) | 214       | 172       | 248<br>(5.0)            | 208<br>(6.1)  |
| <b>Pulmonary disturbances</b>                   | 45<br>(11.9)                               | 28<br>(8.8)  | 38<br>(10.0)                      | 15<br>(5.6) | 296       | 225       | 379<br>(7.7)            | 268<br>(7.9)  |
| <b>Pulmonary and abdominal traumas</b>          | 8<br>(6.9)                                 | 5<br>(10.5)  | 11<br>(9.5)                       | 2<br>(3.5)  | 97        | 50        | 116<br>(2.3)            | 57<br>(1.7)   |
| <b>Resuscitation</b>                            | 11<br>(6.9)                                | 11<br>(7.2)  | 11<br>(6.9)                       | 5<br>(3.3)  | 138       | 137       | 160<br>(3.2)            | 153<br>(4.5)  |
| Heart diseases other                            | 13<br>(1.8)                                | 17<br>(3.5)  | 30<br>(4.1)                       | 13<br>(2.7) | 688       | 449       | 731<br>(14.8)           | 479<br>(14.2) |
| Ischemic heart disease & BP                     | 10<br>(1.6)                                | 7<br>(1.5)   | 18<br>(2.9)                       | 10<br>(2.2) | 588       | 443       | 616<br>(13.8)           | 460<br>(13.6) |

Prone position is a very high risk for PUs



# **Some practical prevention methods**

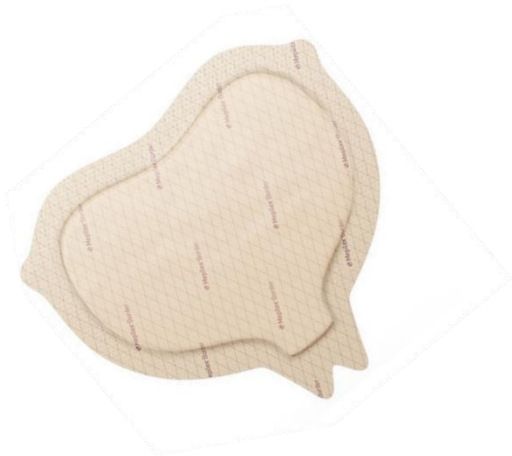
# Skin/tissue assessment and skin care





# *Incontinence control*

- *Skin assessment frequently*
  - skin protectors, wound care products
  - modern diapers
  - urinary catheter
  - faecal management system



Category 1: Persistent redness

Category 2: Skin loss

1A - Persistent redness without clinical signs of infection



Critical criterion

- Persistent redness
- A variety of tones of redness may be present. Patients with darker skin tones, the skin may be paler or darker than normal, or purple in colour.

- Additional criteria
- Marked areas or discolouration from a previous (healed) skin defect
  - Shiny appearance of the skin
  - Macerated skin
  - Intact vesicles and/or bullae
  - Skin may feel tense or swollen at palpation
  - Burning, tingling, itching or pain

1A

2A - Skin loss without clinical signs of infection



Critical criterion

- Skin loss
- Skin loss may present as skin erosion (may result from damaged/eroded vesicles or bullae), denudation or excoriation. The skin damage pattern may be diffuse.

- Additional criteria
- Persistent redness
  - A variety of tones of redness may be present. Patients with darker skin tones, the skin may be paler or darker than normal, or purple in colour
  - Marked areas or discolouration from a previous (healed) skin defect
  - Shiny appearance of the skin
  - Macerated skin
  - Intact vesicles and/or bullae
  - Skin may feel tense or swollen at palpation
  - Burning, tingling, itching or pain

2A

1B - Persistent redness with clinical signs of infection



Critical criteria

- Persistent redness
- A variety of tones of redness may be present. Patients with darker skin tones, the skin may be paler or darker than normal, or purple in colour.
- Signs of infection
- Such as white scaling of the skin (suggesting a fungal infection) or satellite lesions (pustules surrounding the lesion, suggesting a Candida albicans fungal infection).

- Additional criteria
- Marked areas or discolouration from a previous (healed) skin defect
  - Shiny appearance of the skin
  - Macerated skin
  - Intact vesicles and/or bullae
  - The skin may feel tense or swollen at palpation
  - Burning, tingling, itching or pain

1B

2B - Skin loss with clinical signs of infection



Critical criteria

- Skin loss
- Skin loss may present as skin erosion (may result from damaged/eroded vesicles or bullae), denudation or excoriation. The skin damage pattern may be diffuse.
- Signs of infection
- Such as white scaling of the skin (suggesting a fungal infection) or satellite lesions (pustules surrounding the lesion, suggesting a Candida albicans fungal infection), slough visible in the wound bed (yellow/brown/greyish), green appearance within the wound bed (suggesting a bacterial infection with Pseudomonas aeruginosa), excessive exudate levels, purulent exudate (pus) or a shiny appearance of the wound bed.

- Additional criteria
- Persistent redness
  - A variety of tones of redness may be present. Patients with darker skin tones, the skin may be paler or darker than normal, or purple in colour
  - Marked areas or discolouration from a previous (healed) skin defect
  - Shiny appearance of the skin
  - Macerated skin
  - Intact vesicles and/or bullae
  - Skin may feel tense or swollen at palpation
  - Burning, tingling, itching or pain

2B



Skin Tear Classification

Type 1: No Skin Loss

Type 2: Partial Flap Loss

Type 3: Total Flap Loss



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 (partially or fully) 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.

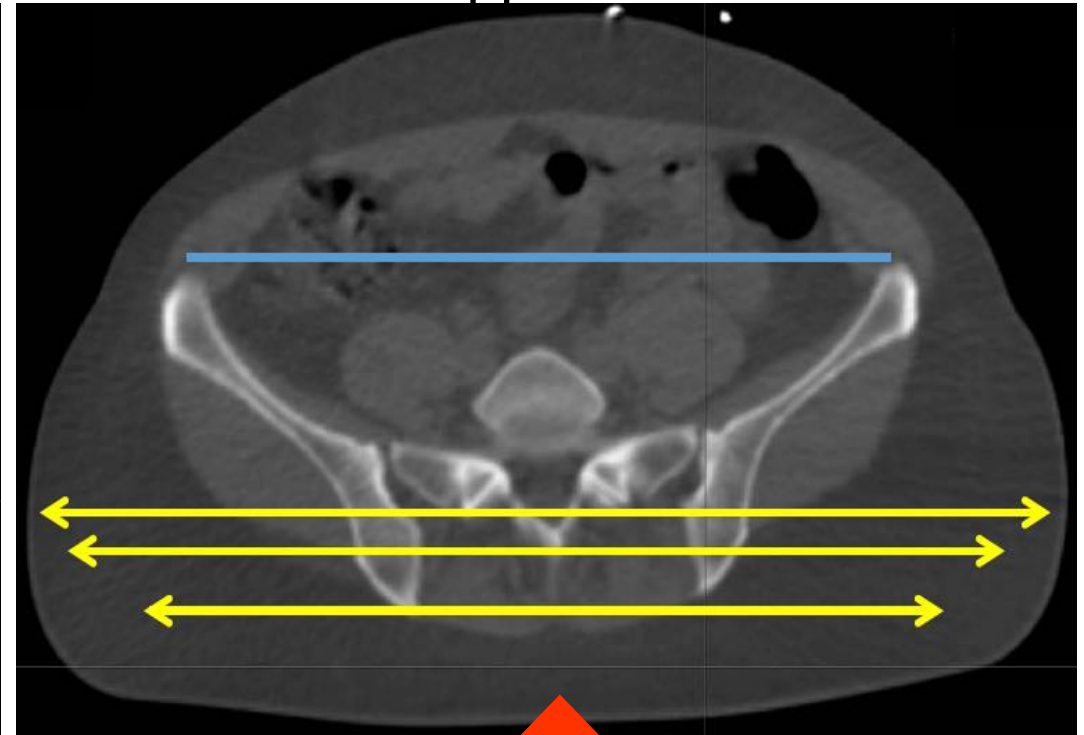
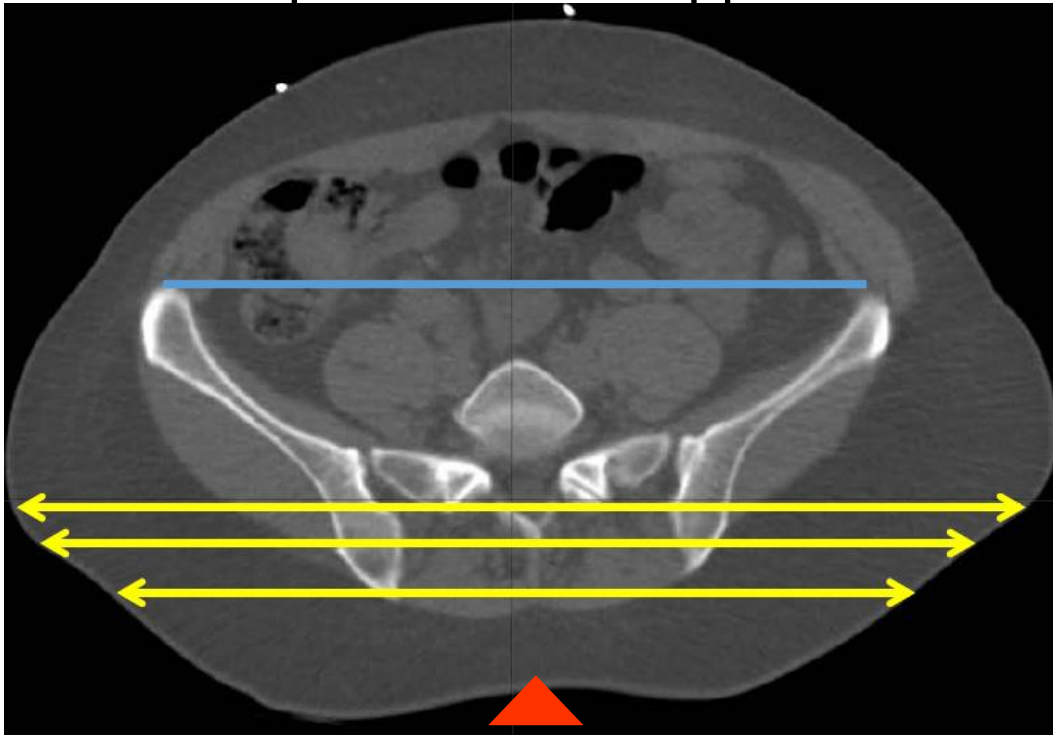
# Support surface according to PU risk



# The effect of mattress type on the deep tissue strain due to the conformation change of the body

Minimum pressure air support surface

Foam support surface



Tissue flattening on foam compared to minimum pressure air mattress (MPA) is here 3.4, 10.4, and 25.2% from top down, respectively. The range is from 1 to 26% depending on individual characteristics.

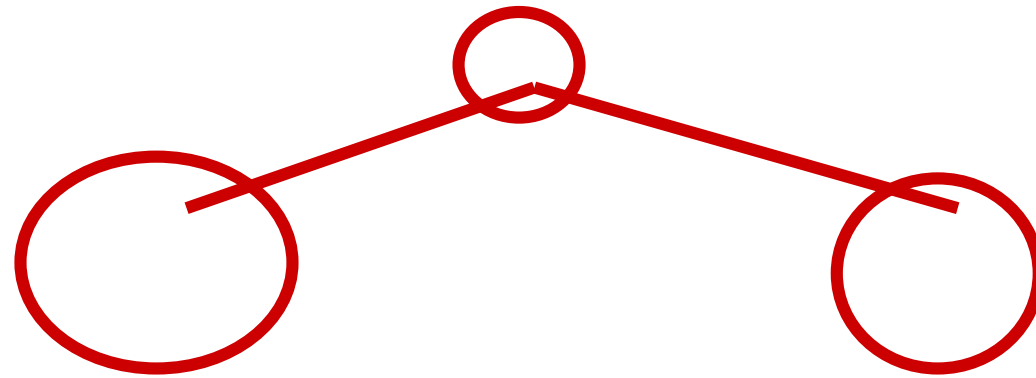
**p < 0.0001**

Soppi et al. Submitted 2019

# How do you make the bed?



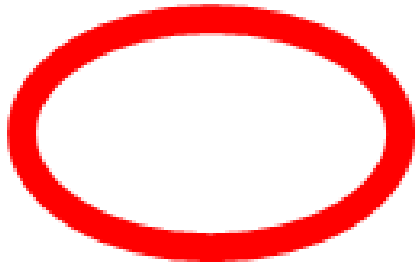
# Transfer from/to the bed



# 30° tilt position



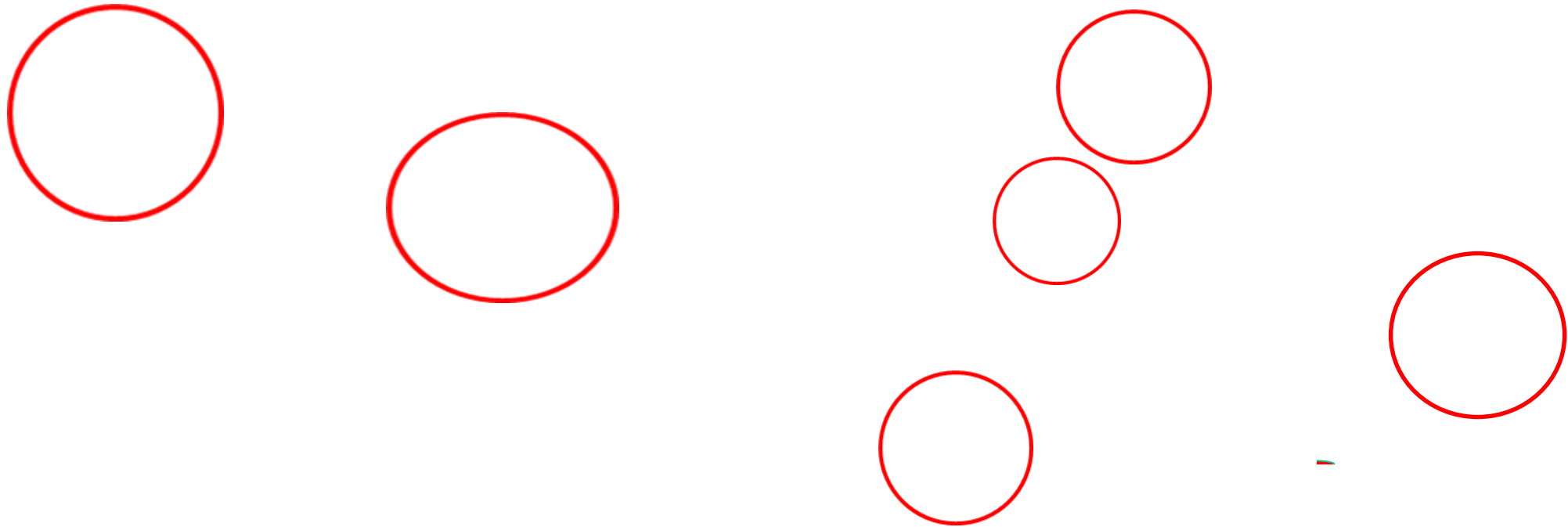
Floating the heels or minimize the pressure, shear and friction.



# Medical device related PUs







# Nutrition

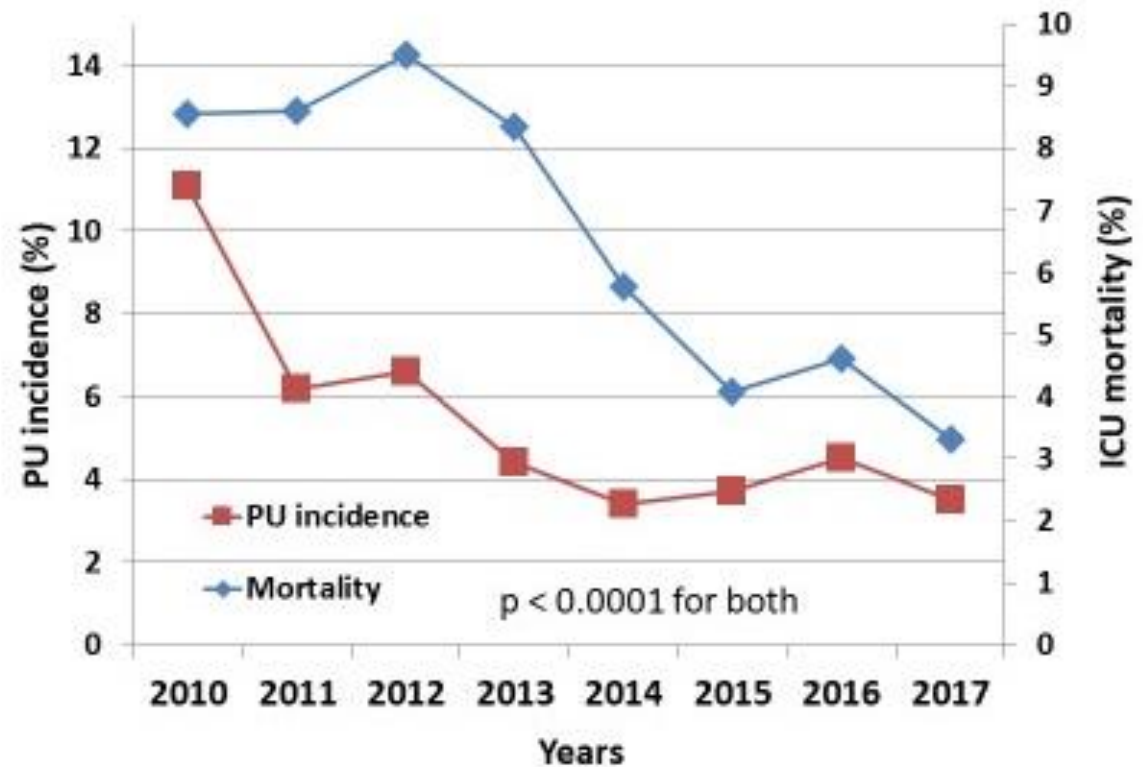
# Documentation

# Achievements

## Reduced PU incidence

- Some > 400 patients did not develop PUs during 2010-2017
- Estimated calculatory savings >2.5 million euros

## Reduced mortality



Ahtiala et al 2018 unpublished



# Conclusions

- PU development remains a multifactorial phenomenon in critically ill patients
- Special subgroups are in the higher risk for PU development
- PUs on admission indicates higher risk to develop new PUs
- New validated pressure risk scale is needed for patients in ICUs; not all intensive care patients are in the same risk
- The clinical judgement
- PU development in ICUs is linked to increased mortality
- Huge monetary and other savings can be achieved
- PU in ICUs can be reduced, but it will take a long time and a multifactorial and interprofessional approach

# Acknowledgements

- The whole staff of the intensive care unit
- Collaborators:
  - Juha Grönlund, MD, PhD
  - Minna Tallgren, MD, PhD
  - Teijo Saari, MD, PhD
  - Ruut Laitio, MD, PhD
  - Esa Soppi, MD, PhD
  - Riku Kivimäki, MSc, statistics

# World Wide STOP Pressure Ulcer Day 21st of November

