

# **Plastic Surgery**

**Volume - 1**

**MARROW**  
— Super Speciality



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# SKIN AND SKIN GRAFTS

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## Embryology & function of skin

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### Overview :

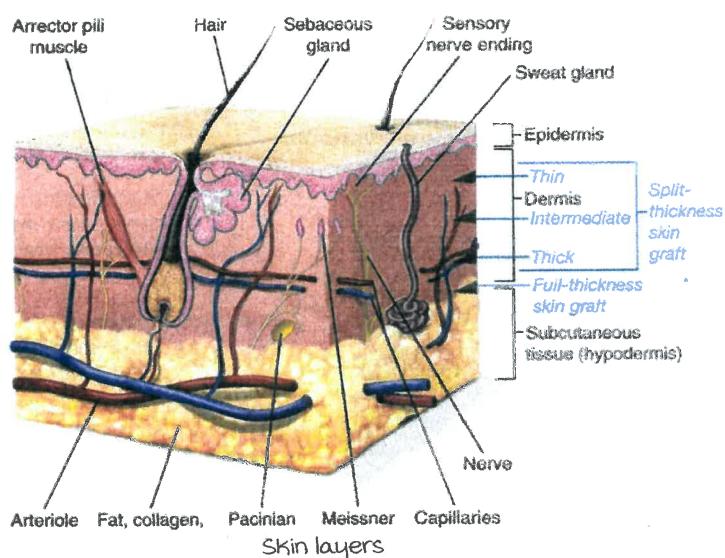
- Largest organ (15% of adult body weight)
- Starts developing from 4<sup>th</sup> week IUL : Differentiates from ectoderm (Forms epidermis) & mesoderm (Forms dermis).
- Teeth & hair follicles, derived from skin (Ecto & mesoderm).
- Toe nails & finger nails also derived from skin (Ectoderm).
- Epidermal appendages : Hair follicles, sebaceous, sweat, apocrine glands.

### Functions of skin :

- Physical protection.
- Protection against uv light.
- Protection against microbial invasion.
- Prevention of fluid loss.
- Regulation of temp.
- Sensation.
- Immunological surveillance.

## Anatomy of skin

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**Epidermis :**

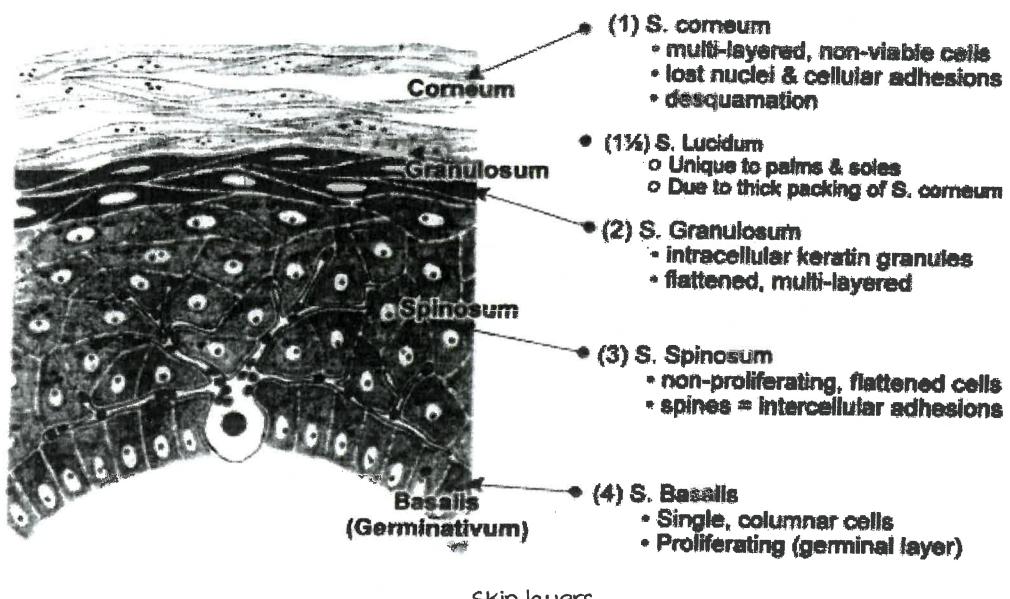
- Stratified squamous epithelium.
- Ectodermal in origin.
- Keratinocytes are predominant cells.
- Substratified into 5 layers

**Varying thickness :**

Average thickness : 100 micrometer.

Thickness in eyelid : 50 micrometer but in palms &amp; soles : upto 1mm.

Layers of epidermis	
Stratum germinativum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively proliferating layer.</li> <li>• Contains melanocytes.</li> <li>• Linked to basal lamina</li> </ul>
Stratum spinosum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Keratinocytes → Cytokeratin → Tonofibrils → Desmosomes.</li> <li>• Helps in adhesion.</li> <li>• Also called as prickle skin layer.</li> </ul>
Stratum Granulosum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mature Keratinocytes containing Keratohyalin granules.</li> <li>• Protein synthesis site.</li> </ul>
Stratum lucidum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only in palm and soles.</li> </ul>
Stratum corneum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-viable cells</li> <li>• Protection &amp; insulation.</li> </ul>

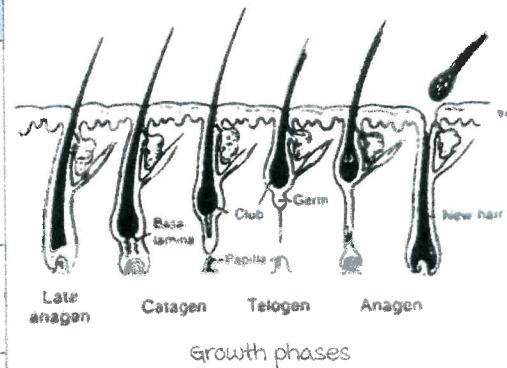


## Dermis :

- 95% of skin thickness.
- Fibroblasts : Dominant cell type. Others : mast cells.
- Constituents :
  - Collagen T1 (mature).
  - T3 (immature).
  - Elastin.
- Ground substance :
  - Hyaluronic acid.
  - Dermatan Sulphate.
- Chondroitin sulphate. Papillary dermis

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Layers of dermis	
Papillary dermis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loosely arranged collagen fibers</li> <li>• Provides nutrients &amp; heat exchange.</li> </ul>
Reticular dermis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense irregular collagen &amp; dermal elastin.</li> </ul>
A horizontal plexus of vessels connected by bridging vessels traverse the dermis.	



## Appendages :

- Hair follicles :
  - Parts : medulla, cortex, cuticle.
  - Inner root sheath (superficial) vs outer root sheath (deep).
- Growth phases :
  - Anagen (growing 90%).
  - Catagen (regressing 1-2%).
  - Telogen (resting phase 10-12%).
- Glands :
  - Eccrine : Palm, sole, axilla (absent in lips, penis, clitoris, labia minora, areola).
  - Apocrine : Axilla, eyelid (moll), groin, areola.
  - Sebaceous : Produce sebum, present on the forehead, nose, cheek, mostly contain keratin.

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00:15:27

## Skin graft basics

### Definition :

Complete detachment of a portion of skin from a donor site & transferring to a host bed where a new blood supply is acquired.

### History :

- Origin : India, approximately 3000 years ago for nasal reconstruction in tile maker caste.
- Reverdin 1869 : Pinch graft.
- Ollier 1869, Thiersch 1871 : Split thickness graft; Wolfe and Krausse: Full thickness graft.
- Sir Astley Cooper : In 1817, used skin graft to cover an amputated thumb.

### Important aspects :

- Thickness varies region wise.
- Thickest : Trunk, palm, sole.
- Thinnest : Eyelids, postauricular.
- Children & elderly : Thin in general.
- Dermis thins after 4th-5th decade.
- men have thicker skin.

Types of graft (As per donor)	
Autograft	Donor & recipient is same individual
Allograft	Donor & recipient is of same species
Xenograft	Donor & recipient is of different species
Isograft	Donor & recipient genetically identical (Twins)
As per skin thickness	
STSG	<p>Epidermis with variable amount of dermis a.k.a partial thickness skin graft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thin : 0.15 - 0.3mm</li> <li>• Intermediate : 0.3 - 0.45mm</li> <li>• Thick : 0.45 - 0.6mm</li> </ul>
FTSG	Complete dermis included

**Contraction of grafts**

00:28:53

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**Graft contraction :****Primary contraction :**

- At time of harvest.
- Elastin mediated more in FTSG (~40%).
- STSG-medium : 20%, thin : 10%.

**Secondary contracture :**

- During healing at wound bed.
- myofibroblast mediated.
- more in STSG,

**Note :**

In cases, requiring large areas to be grafted, STSG preferred as large amount of FTSG cannot be harvested. But in cosmetic cases, FTSG preferred as to avoid secondary contracture and thus disfigurement.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
STSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graft take more reliable</li> <li>• Donor heals in 7-14 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more wound contraction</li> <li>• Does not grow</li> <li>• Not durable</li> <li>• minimal hair growth/sweating</li> </ul>
FTSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less scar contraction</li> <li>• Grows with age</li> <li>• Better match</li> <li>• Hair and glands normal</li> <li>• Once innervated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graft take less reliable</li> <li>• Donor needs primary closure or</li> <li>• STSG</li> </ul>

**Recipient sites**

00:35:51

**Suitable and unsuitable sites :****Suitable sites :**

muscle, fascia, fat, periosteum, perichondrium, paratenon, granulation tissue.

**Unsuitable sites :**

Bare cortical bone/tendon/cartilage, irradiated tissue, necrotic or infected tissue.

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## Phases of graft take/ Revascularisation

00:38:45

Phases of graft take	
Imbibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-48 hrs.</li> <li>• Ischemic/anaerobic phase.</li> <li>• Nourishment by diffusion.</li> <li>• Graft appears edematous &amp; white.</li> <li>• Keeps graft moist and capillaries patent.</li> <li>• Attachment by fibrin only.</li> </ul>
Inoculation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more valid.</li> <li>• Kissing capillaries.</li> <li>• Unidirectional angiogenesis at fibrin interface.</li> <li>• 48 to 72 hours, microvascular growth of capillary-sized vessels (Averaging 10-11 mm in diameter).</li> <li>• Peak in vessel density : Day 7.</li> </ul>
Revascularisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angiogenesis established in conduits : 3 methods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inoculation, reangiogenesis, neovascularisation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lymphatic drainage established, edema resolved.</li> <li>• Graft appears pink.</li> <li>• Collagen links form between graft and bed. mediated by <b>mmpa</b>.</li> </ul>
Cellular hyperplasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After 1-2 weeks, epidermis thickens <b>7-8 fold</b>.</li> <li>• Scaling and crusting.</li> <li>• Returns to normal by 4 weeks.</li> </ul>
maturation/ Remodelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurs by interaction of graft &amp; wound bed. <math>2^{\circ}</math> contraction is seen.</li> <li>• Pigmentation : FTSG better match, STSG may develop hyperpigmentation, sun avoidance x 6 months.</li> <li>• Reinnervation : Starts in 4-5 weeks, complete by 12-24 months, FTSG &gt; STSG.</li> <li>• Sequence of return of sensation : Pain → Light touch → Temperature.</li> <li>• Care regarding thermal injury necessary in early days as temperature sensation returns last.</li> </ul>

**Sites of harvest**

00:47:57

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**STSG :**

- medial thigh as cosmetically less disfiguring.
- Buttocks.
- Scalp.
- Back.

**FTG :**

- Post auricular.
- Groin.
- Supra Clavicular area.
- Inner side of arm.

**Graft harvesting**

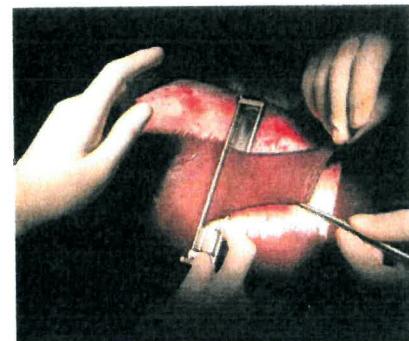
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**FTSG :**

- Free hand scalpel.
- Template used.
- Planned oversized to accommodate primary contraction.
- Defat before placement.

**STSG :**

- Instruments.
- Handheld Knife : Humby, Goulian.
- Dermatome : Drum (Padgett, Reese air/electric powered bleeding patterns).
- Tiny punctate bleed closely placed : Thin STSG.
- Widely spaced bigger bleeding points : Thick STSG.



STSG instruments

**Graft expansion**

00:54:19

**Graft expansion techniques :****meshing :**

- manual or mesher.
- $1:1.5$  = usual,  $1:9$  = maximum.
- Allows drainage of exudate & blood
- Cobble stone appearance.
- Significant contraction, so avoid using over joints.



Graft mesher

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**Pinch graft:**

- Graft divided into tiny pieces.

**meek island grafting :**

- Special dermatome and prefolded gauze used.
- Skin graft cut into pieces using cork plates & then rolled into a machine placing onto a prefolded gauge.
- On opening the gauge, islands of separated skin are present, which then placed on the wound surface cause skin regeneration in between.
- Expansion ratio 1:9.



Skin graft opened

**microskin grafting:**

- Sheet graft minced with Tanner-vandeput dermatome.
- Expansion ratio 1 : 10.

**Intermingled transplantation :**

- Autograft alternating with allograft.

**Fixation of graft & Causes of graft failure**

01:02:24

**Causes :**

- Hematoma (m/c).
- Infection (and m/c).
- Seroma.
- movement.
- Excess pressure.
- Arterial insufficiency.
- Venous congestion.
- Lymphatic stasis.
- Upside down graft placement.
- Poor fixation.

**Tie over dressings :**

- Help immobile/fix the graft over the wound.
- Used commonly for mobile areas, facial wounds.

## Donor site healing & dressings

01:08:15

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### Donor site healing :

#### FTSG :

- Primary closure.

#### STSG :

- Epithelial migration from appendages and edges.
- Starts in 24 hrs, complete in 7-10 days, not durable.
- Dermis does not regenerate.
- Serial STSG can be harvested from donor with thick dermis.

### Donor site dressings :

- Open : Cheap, prolong healing, painful, infection risk.
- Semiopen : Scarlet red, Biobrane, Vaseline gauze, xerofoam.
- Semi-occlusive : Allevyn, Opsite, Tegaderm.
- Occlusive : Duoderm.
- Biologic :
  - Amniotic membrane.
  - Cultured cells.
  - Allograft.
  - Xenograft.
  - Skin substitutes.
- Allograft is revascularized before rejection, xenograft is rejected before revascularisation.

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## SKIN SUBSTITUTES AND WOUND DRESSINGS

### Wound dressing

00:00:54

#### **Ideal wound dressing :**

- Protection of wound physically and microbiologically.
- Non toxic and non allergenic.
- maintains humidity.
- Removes excess exudate.
- Allows gaseous exchange.
- Removes necrotic material.
- Promotes epithelialisation.
- Promotes granulation.
- Atraumatic application and removal.
- Inexpensive with long shelf life.

#### **Classification of wound dressing :**

Could be temporary or permanent.

##### **Temporary biologic dressings :**

- Organic.
- Synthetic.

##### **Permanent biologic dressings :**

- Autograft.
- Skin substitutes.

##### **Synthetic :**

###### **Low adherent dressings :**

- Tulles (Open weave soaked in paraffin).
- Textiles (mepitel).
- Perforated plastic films (Telfa).

###### **Semipermeable films :**

- Permeable to gas and vapour (Not to liquids and bacteria).
- Opsite and tegaderm with adhesive (Polyurethane).
- Omiderm is without adhesive.

### Hydrogels :

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- Insoluble polymers with 96% water.
- Donate water and keep wound moist (Natural autolysis).
- Aquafilm, Intrasite.

### Hydrocolloids :

- Sodium CMC, gelatin, elastomers.
- Forms a gel by absorption of wound exudate.
- very commonly used hydrocolloid dressing : Aquacel.

### Alginates :

- Derived from a brown seaweed.
- Absorbent.
- Disadvantage : Adhere on non exudative wound.

### Synthetic foams :

- Polyurethane or silicone.
- Heavily exudative wound.

### Negative pressure wound therapy :

- Acts by mechanotransduction.
- Decreases interstitial fluid content of wound.
- Promotes granulation tissue.
- Wound covered with open cell sponge, covered with a polyurethane adhesive film.
- Pressure : 120 mmHg for acute, 50 - 70 mmHg for chronic wounds.
- Intermittent suction.

### Contra-indications :

- Malignancy.
- Untreated osteomyelitis.
- Fistulae.
- Necrotic tissue.
- Ischemic tissue.

### Organic wound dressing :

#### Allograft skin :

- Live related (Family members) : Banned in several countries.
- Live unrelated (Freshly harvested from donors) : Fresh cadavers.

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- Cadaveric unrelated :
  - Glycerol preserved after freeze-drying.
  - Glycerol preservation at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  (may contain viable cells and can lead to rejection).
  - Irradiated.
  - Immunogenic.
- Alexander technique (Sandwich)  $\rightarrow$  widely meshed autograft and allograft placed above.
- Human amnion (Readily available).
- Porcine (Replacement every few days).

### Synthetic wound dressing :

#### Biobrane bilaminate :

- Semipermeable silicone sheet.
- Embedded in nylon fabric with porcine collagen.
- Acellular in nature.
- Provides good pain relief.
- Good temporising measure to allow early physiotherapy.
- Especially used in paediatric scalds, donor wounds.



Biobrane bilaminate

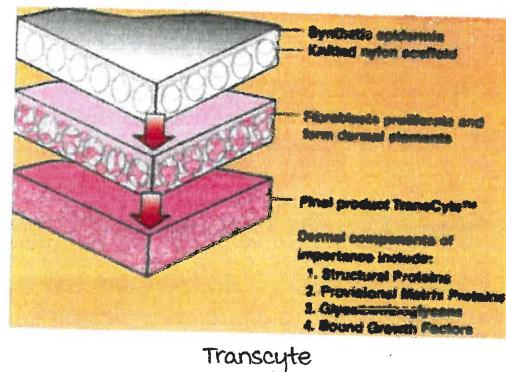


#### Biograde gloves :

- Advantages : Pain relief.
- No antibiotics : Chances of infection.

#### Transcyte :

- Polymer membrane with neonatal fibroblasts.
- Grown on a nylon mesh with porcine collagen and bounded to a thin layer of silicone.
- Fibroblasts secrete growth factors, collagen and proteins.
- Frozen for storage.
- Growth factors remain intact.
- Acellular in nature.



**Skin substitute**

00:18:17

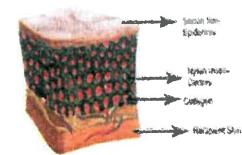
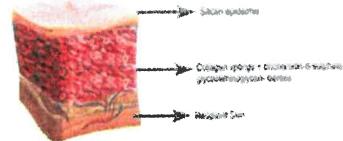
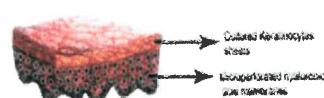
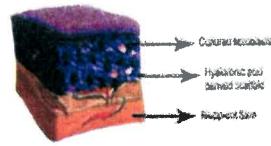
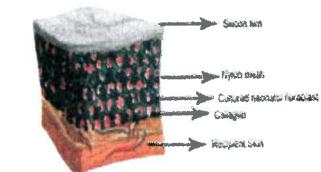
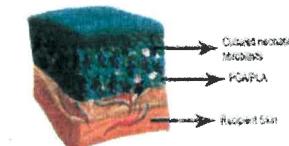
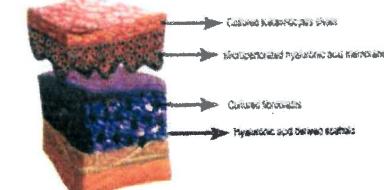
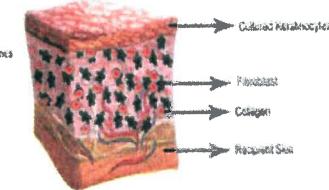
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**Ideal skin substitute :**

- Permanent.
- No skin antigenicity.
- Tissue compatibility.
- Non toxic.
- Permeable to water vapour.
- Resistant to infection.
- Adherence to wound surface.
- Porosity.
- malleable.
- elastic.
- Structural stability.
- Smooth surface.
- Tensile strength.
- Ease of storage.
- Economical.
- Biodegradable.

**Common skin substitutes :****Permanently incorporated :**

- *Integra*
- *matriderm*.
- *Dermagraft*.
- *Cultured epithelial autograft*.

**(a) Acellular****i. AlloDerm®****ii. Biobrane®****iii. Integra® DRT****(b) Epidermal Autologous****i. Cell Spray****ii. Epicel****iii. Laserskin****(c) Dermal Autologous****i. Hyalograft 3D****(d) Dermal Allogenic****i. TransCyte****ii. Dermagraft****(e) Xenogenic Dermal****i. Permacol****(f) Epidermal/ Dermal (Composite)****Autologous****i. Tissue tech autograft system****(g) Epidermal/ Dermal (Composite)****Allograft****i. Apligraf**

Skin substitutes

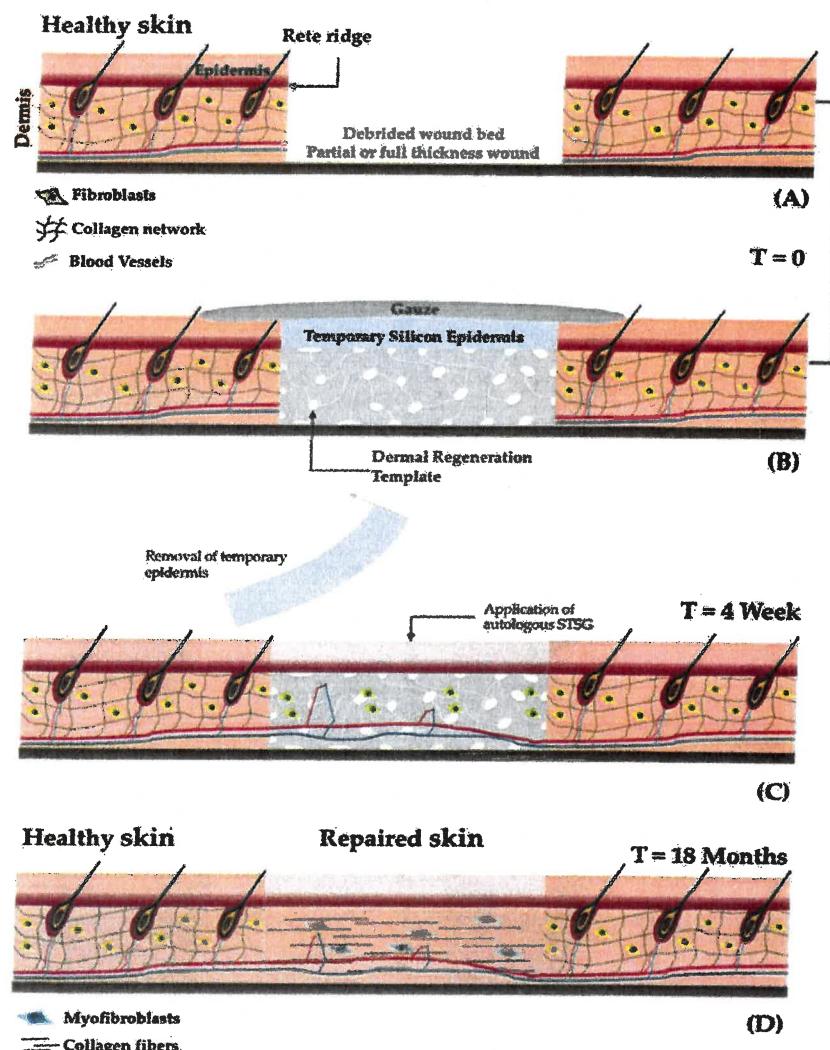
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### Integra:

- Silicone prevents moisture loss and granulation tissue formation on the surface.
- C6S elasticity, controls the degradation rate maintains and open pore structure.

### Phases of healing:

- Imbibition (Fibrin mediated).
- Fibroblast migration:
  - Occurs by day 7.
  - Collagen production by 3 weeks.
- Neovascularization:
  - Occurs by day 12.
  - Remove superficial layer by day 28 & replaced with autologous epidermis.
- Remodelling.
- Used for challenging areas with NPWT.



Integra

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### matriderm :

#### Single layer dermal template :

- Bovine dermal collagen.
- Bovine nuchal ligament elastin

### Dermagraft :

- Neonatal foreskin fibroblasts.
- Seeded onto biodegradable PGA mesh.
- Fibroblasts are viable after thawing.

### Cultured epidermal autograft :

- Keratinocytes cultured and sprayed.
- Risk of contracture.

### Couono technique :

- CEA on allograft.
- Allograft is used till the cell is being cultured.
- After revascularisation, removal of epidermis.
- Spraying of CEA.