

Bioburden Assessment Tool

Group	Signs and Symptoms
A	Stalled healing
	Friable and bright red granulation tissue
	Increased or altered exudate
	Increasing or new odor
	Localized edema
	Increased or new pain
B	Increasing periwound induration PLUS erythema extending well beyond the wound borders
	Wound breakdown and/or satellite areas of breakdown
	Lymphangitis
	General malaise
C	Fever
	Rigors
	Chills
	Hypotension
	Organ failure

Clinical Interpretation of the Bioburden Assessment Tool

Level of Risk	Category	Definition
Colonized: at risk	I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No signs or symptoms from any group • Clinical decision based on location of wound and co-morbid conditions
Critically Colonized (a.k.a. localized infection)	II	Presence of two or more signs of symptoms from Group A
Spreading Infection	III	Presence of two or more signs of symptoms from Group A PLUS one or more from Group B
Systemic Infection	IV	Presence of any signs or symptom from Group A and B PLUS one or more from Group C



Reference

Keast D and Lindholm C. Ensuring that the correct antimicrobial dressing is selected. Wounds International. 2012;3(3):22-28. Used with permission from author.