Diagnosis of Ecchymosis/Hematoma

Characteristics

- **Ecchymosis**: localized, flat discolouration of the skin caused by a collection of clotted blood that accumulated into tissues from ruptured capillaries, appearing as bruising.[1-3]
- **Hematoma**: localized collection of blood outside the vessels, forming a swollen, often firm lump.[1,4]
- Symptoms include discolouration (ranging from red to purple, then yellow-green as they heal), tenderness, and swelling (for hematomas).[1-4]

Causes/Etiology

- Ecchymosis and/or hematoma can result from trauma, injections, or anticoagulant use, and may occur in patients with fragile blood vessels or coagulopathies.[1-4]



1. Davis CP. Hematoma vs. ecchymosis: differences and similarities. eMedicineHealth. Updated by Cunha JP. Accessed November 27, 2024. https://www.emedicinehealth.com/hematoma_v_ecchymosis/article_em.htm; 2. Asirdizer M, Besik EZ, Kartal E. Non-traumatic ecchymoses: A literature review from a medico-legal perspective. *J Forensic Leg Med*. 2023;95:102490; 3. Mallidi RQ. Ecchymosis. MedIndia. Published August 23, 2017. Accessed November 27, 2024. https://www.medindia.net/patientinfo/ecchymosis.htm; 4. Wedro B. Hematoma. In: Balentine JR, ed. MedicineNet. Published July 5, 2024. Accessed November 27, 2024. https://www.medicinenet.com/hematoma/article.htm.