Diagnosis of Abscess



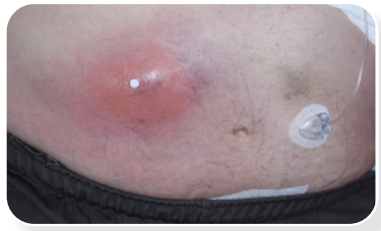
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Lynne H. Robertson, Dermatologist

Characteristics

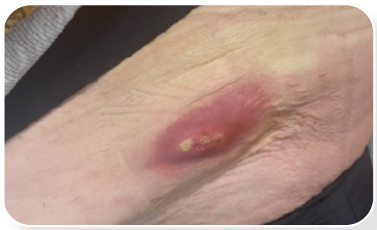
- **Abscess**: collection of pus that has built up within the tissue of the body.[1]
- **Abscesses** present as a **localized, swollen, red, and painful area**, often **warm to the touch** and **sometimes with a visible pus-filled centre**.[1]
- Abscess may feel as though it is **filled with fluid or "boggy"** if it is pressed (fluctuates).[1]
- Area of redness is often bigger than the area of swelling.[2]
- Pain, fever and chills may also be present.[1]

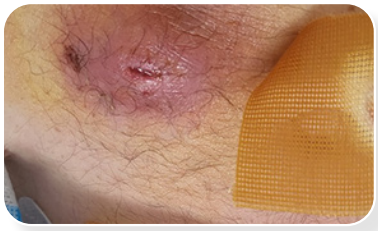
Causes

- **Abscesses** are usually caused by bacterial infections, with many different types of bacteria as possible etiologic agents.[2-4]

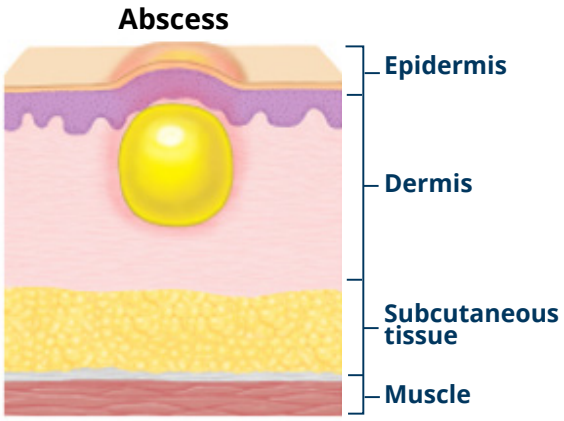












1. Singer AJ, Talan DA. Management of skin abscesses in the era of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *N Engl J Med*. 2014;370(11):1039-1047; 2. Tidy C, Willacy H. Abscess. Patient.info. Last updated September 26, 2023. Accessed November 27, 2024. https://patient.info/infections/abscess-leaflet; 3. Bush LM. Abscesses. MSD Manual Professional Edition. Reviewed/Revised July 2024. Accessed November 27, 2024. https://www.msdmanuals.com/professional/infectious-diseases/biology-of-infectious-disease/abscesses?query=abscess; 4. The Manual's Editorial Staff. Folliculitis and skin abscesses. MSD Manual Consumer Version. Reviewed/Revised November 2023. Accessed November 27, 2024. https://www.msdmanuals.com/home/quick-facts-skin-disorders/bacterial-skin-infections/folliculitis-and-skin-abscesses.