Epibole Edges with undermining
What is the ideal treatment for epibole wound edges with undermining?
A) Tuck gauze into the undermined area.

B) Use a highly absorbent dressing as there will be more drainage.

C) Use silver nitrate to the epibole edge.

D) Use sharp debridement to the epibole edge.
Answer

- C and D - Silver nitrate or sharp debridement

- Epibole edges: Edges of top layers of epidermis have rolled down to cover the lower edge of epidermis so that epithelial cells cannot migrate from wound edges.
Case

- 28 y.o. male who was in a MVA and had a C2 fracture requiring a Halo. He developed a pressure area on his back from the Halo.

- Recovered from the accident well without any significant residual issues other than wound. Current smoker.
- Minimal drainage. No pain.
- Approximately 2 cm of undermining.
- Started with moist saline gauze dressing changes BID.
- Tucked various dressings into the wound.
- Used silver related to increasing odorous drainage.
- Debridement

- Hydrofiber with gauze over the top to be changed daily.
Take home points

- Epibole edges should be debrided.
- Wounds must heal from the bottom up and the “dead space” needs to be filled.