

GANGRENE

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Gangrene refers to the death of macroscopic portions of tissue, which turns black because of the breakdown of haemoglobin and the formation of iron sulphide. It usually affects the most distal part of a limb because of arterial obstruction (from thrombosis, embolus or arteritis). Dry gangrene occurs when the tissues are desiccated by gradual slowing of the blood - stream; it is typically the result of atheromatous occlusion of arteries. Wet gangrene occurs when superadded infection and putrefaction are present. Crepitus may be palpated as a result of infection by gas-forming organisms, commonly in diabetic foot problems, and should be considered a surgical emergency with urgent tissue debridement or amputation required.

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