

Pressure Ulcers

What risk factors does Mrs. Pressley have for developing pressure ulcers?

84 yr old, Non-elastic skin turgor

92 lbs, Weight loss, 9 lb loss in 7

days Impaired memory/Alzheimer's

Shortness of breath, HF

Immobile, Pain

HTN, Furosemide, Edema to lower extremity

H&H: 9.0/27; Albumin 2.3

Pressure from a bony prominence or a medical device can cause damage to the soft tissue and skin, causing a pressure ulcer. Mrs. Pressley is a 84 yr old female, that weighs 92 lbs, and has lost 9 lbs in the last 7 days. Her age and the fact that she has lost 9 lbs in 7 days places her at a higher risk of developing a pressure ulcer due to less subcutaneous fat content, thinner dermis, skin turgor lost elasticity, and the epidermis does not repair as fast. (Mervis & Phillips, 2019) Issues with malnutrition, hypoalbuminemia, and Anemia can put the skin at risk for damage and overall weaken the integrity of the skin. (Kim et al., 2022) Her lower Albumin can also contribute to the edema of her lower extremities causing increased gravitational force of her heels to the bed. (Mervis & Phillips, 2019) Increased pain could make her resistant to repositioning and further limit her mobility, in turn, she is at risk of developing a pressure injury. Vascular disease, HTN, Shortness of breath, and heart failure can affect the development of pressure ulcers due to the effects of blood circulation and diminished oxygenation to the tissues. (Mervis & Phillips, 2019) Due to the lack of sensation and awareness, Alzheimer's and