

Chapter 4:

Stoma site marking

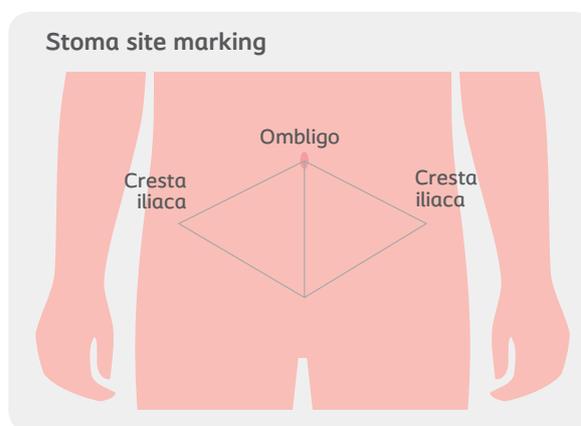
Stoma site marking is another important area within paediatric stoma care. Healthcare professionals need to be aware of when such marking is required, and when it is not. For example, when an infant undergoes stoma surgery, it is usually an emergency, and stoma marking cannot be arranged.⁴ However, stoma site marking is recommended in school-age children and teenagers with elective stoma surgery. This is to obtain the best seal in all positions.⁵ In case of elective surgeries, stoma site marking should also be considered, even for children younger than school-aged, to ensure quality of life with the stoma.

Factors impacting site selection

The same site selection criteria used for adults applies to the paediatric population. The challenge is, of course, that a smaller skin surface area is available. Depending on the age of the child, it is recommended that one parent is present at the time of stoma site marking, and that both the parent and child are included in the discussion of the site. When dealing with teenagers, make sure they have realistic expectations about what to expect when it comes to the final stoma location. For all patients, when a stoma is marked, the child and family should be advised that the site might be altered at the time of surgery according to intraoperative findings during the surgical procedure.

When marking the stoma site, remember to take into consideration the child's sporting activities, hobbies and clothing habits. Be sure to assess the child in various positions. Keep in mind that children with special needs (i.e. wheelchair bound) require special consideration when selecting the stoma site.

For emergency surgeries in neonates and premature neonates, it is important that the paediatric surgeon and the stoma nurse have a dialogue concerning the placement of the stoma. If possible, surgeons should avoid placing the stoma too close to the groin or the umbilicus. For more information, see Section A, Chapter 6 on Stoma care, pouch wear time for more information.



⁴ When an infant undergoes stoma surgery it is usually an emergency, and stoma marking cannot be arranged.» (Colwell JC & al, 2004 p.223).

⁵ Stoma site marking is, however, recommended in school-age children and teenagers with elective stoma surgery to obtain best seal in all positions. (WOCN Paediatric Ostomy Care: Best Practice for Clinicians p. 16)