

Understanding Your Skin

Skin is the largest organ in the body.

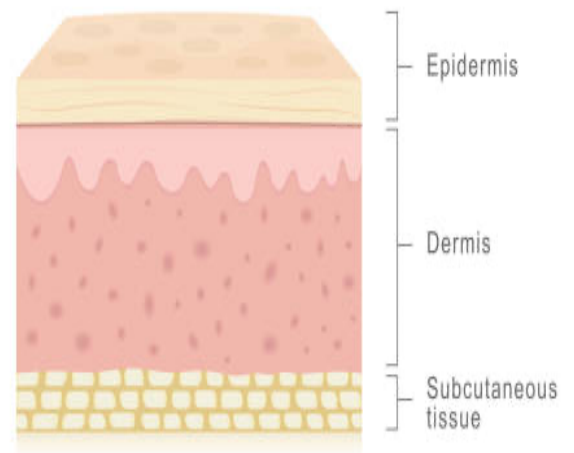
Skin protects our body, helps keep our body at the right temperature, and allows us to have the sense of touch.

Layers of our skin

Epidermis- This is the layer that you can see with your eyes. Your skin is made up of many small skin cells that keep your body protected. You also have skin cells called Melanin. Melanin gives your skin its special color. The darker your skin is, the more melanin you have.

Dermis-This layer you cannot see, it is under the Epidermis. This is where your nerve endings, blood vessels, oil glands, and sweat glands are. The nerve endings in the dermis tell you how things feel when you touch them. The nerve endings send messages to your brain and nervous system. This is how you know that a dog's fur is soft and ice is cold. The dermis is also filled with many blood vessels. Your blood vessels keep your skin healthy by bringing oxygen and nutrients.

Subcutaneous Tissue- This layer is made up of fat that helps your body stay warm. In this layer there are hair follicles, which is where each tiny piece of hair starts to grow.



Understanding Your Burn Injury

When your skin gets burned by something hot like water or oil, or by a chemical, some of the layers get injured. The doctors will talk to you and your family about what layers of your skin were injured.

Depending on what layers of your skin were injured, depends on what type of bandages your skin will need to help it heal. Your skin may take time to heal, that's okay every body is different. At first your skin may look pink, this is the new skin that is starting to grow. Overtime your skin will continue to heal but it may always look a little different than the way your skin looked before your burn injury.