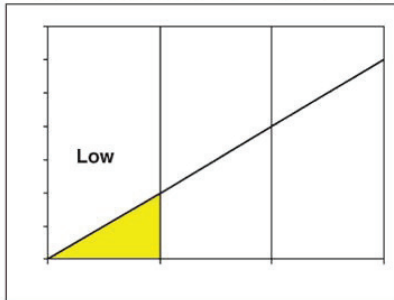


# Appendix J: Progression from Bacterial Balance to Bacterial Damage

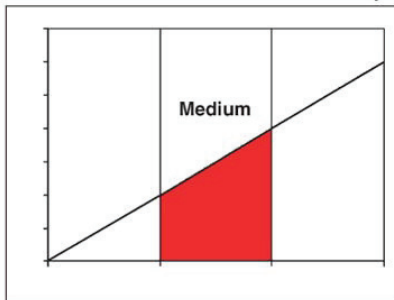
## Contaminated or colonized



Bacteria are present on the wound surface (contaminated). A steady state of replicating organisms are attaching to the wound tissue and multiplying but they are not associated with tissue damage or delayed healing (colonization).



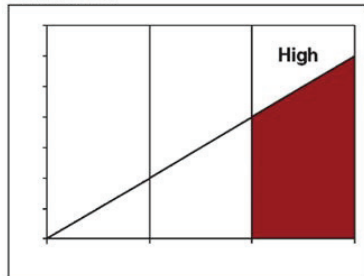
## Critically colonized (local infection, covert infection, increased bacterial burden)



- The bacterial burden in the wound bed is increasing.
- Initiates the body's immune response (inflammation).
- The wound is no longer healing at the expected rate: wound size is not decreasing.
- Look for the signs outlined in the enabler NERDS.



## Infected



- Bacteria are present within the wound and have spread to the deeper and surrounding tissue. They are multiplying and causing tissue damage.
- There is an associated host inflammatory response that has now spread to the deeper tissue and surrounding skin.
- The wound is painful and may increase in size with potential satellite areas of breakdown.
- Look for the signs outlined in the enabler STONES.



Source: Reprinted from "Increased Bacterial Burden and Infection: NERDS and STONES," by R. G. Sibbald, K. Woo, and E. A. Ayello, 2007, *Wounds UK*, 3(2), pp. 25–46. Copyright 2007 by Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. Reprinted with permission.