

Video transcript: Know your enemy – Necrosis

Necrosis is the premature death of cells as a result of disease, injury or a loss of blood supply. Here you can see where the cells have died and the tissue has become necrotic. It takes on a dark colour where the tissue is dead.

When the cells die in this way, they release their cell contents into the extracellular space, triggering an inflammatory response, as cell damaging enzymes kill the surrounding cells. This causes a chain reaction, as more cells die, releasing more cell damaging enzymes. Eventually, the tissue will begin to decompose.