

INTRODUCTION

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The ulcerated leg is one of the common problems for which the physician is likely to be consulted. The ulcer is an area in which, besides the epidermis, part of the dermis is also absent. There are three main types of chronic ulceration commonly encountered in lower extremities. Ischemic, stasis and neurotrophic ulcers. Other types like infective, metabolic, neoplastic and traumatic should be taken into consideration. Current classification and diagnosis is based upon the location of the leg ulcer, the presence or absence of pain, bleeding with manipulation, the characteristics of each ulcer and associated findings as for example trophic changes of chronic ischemia, stasis dermatitis and demonstrable neuropathy.

Successful treatment of such leg ulcers is based upon the aetiology, clinical features and also on the severity of the case and so differs from one type of ulcer to another.

The following discussion of the classification, diagnosis and treatment of chronic leg ulcers is a trial to collect the various causes and up date treatment of this frequently occurring dermatosis.