



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

CLINICAL AND ETIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CHRONIC LEG ULCERS IN MILITARY

M Ben Slimane⁽¹⁾ - W Abdelli⁽¹⁾ - F Rabhi⁽¹⁾ - I Chabchoub⁽²⁾ - S Zaraa⁽¹⁾ - K Jaber⁽¹⁾ - Mr Dhaoui⁽¹⁾

Military Hospital, Dermatology, Tunis, Tunisia⁽¹⁾ - Military Hospital, Dermatology, Tunis, Tunisia⁽²⁾

Introduction: Leg ulcers are a common medical problem that causes significant morbidity. They require care often long and difficult. The objective of our work is to study the epidemiological profile and etiology of leg ulcers.

Patient and methods: This is a retrospective study of leg ulcers in the Dermatology Department of the Military Hospital from January 2013 to August 2018.

Results: We collected 64 cases. The average age was 40.5 years old. The sex ratio H/F was 3, 5. Forty percent of our patients had cardiovascular risk factors. Behcet's disease was found in one patient. Five patients underwent varicose vein stripping. The average duration was 4 months. In 88% of cases, leg ulcer was unique. The average size was 3.5 cm. Thirty five percent were of vascular origin among which 2/3 were venous ulcers with osteo-truncal venous incontinence. Arterial ulcers, which represented 1/3 of vascular ulcers, were characterized either by distal ischemic arteropathy or by a demodulated aspect of the arteries. An infectious etiology was found in 30% of cases. Cutaneous leishmaniasis was found in 59% of infectious ulcers with a positive dermal smear and. The remaining 41% of the cases were clinically diagnosed ecthyma. Thirty percent of leg ulcers were post traumatic. Pyoderma gangrenosum was responsible for 3% of the leg ulcers in our series with histological confirmation. Pathomimicry was noted in 2 of our patients. The post-therapeutic evolution of these different leg ulcers was good in 70% of patients with partial improvement in 40% of cases and complete healing in 30% of cases. Thirty percent of ulcers recurred, 10% after skin grafting.

Conclusion: Leg ulcers are a pathology of the middle-aged man. In both literature and our series, vascular origin is the most common. But do not miss an infectious origin such as a cutaneous leishmaniasis or beside a pyoderma gangrenosum. The therapeutic management is quite heavy with a risk of recurrence to be taken into consideration even after skin grafting.

