

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRONIC VENOUS ULCERATION RELATED TO AGE

Vesna Karanikolić, Maša Golubović, Nataša Djindjić, Nila Kučar

Clinic of Dermatology, Clinical Center Niš, Serbia

Contact: Vesna Karanikolić
48 Dr. Zoran Djindjić Blvd., 18000 Niš, Serbia
E-mail: pean@ptt.rs

Venous ulceration occurs in 1% of the total human population, and occurs more often in people older than 65 years. The aim of the study was to determine the characteristics of chronic venous ulceration (CVU) related to the patients age. The study included 102 ambulatory patients with CVU, treated at the Clinic of Skin Diseases of the Clinical Center Niš. The study group consisted of patients ≥ 65 years, while the control group consisted of patients < 65 years. The study used patients' data such as age, gender, history of deep vein thrombosis, previous episodes of ulceration, previous operation on the veins, body mass index, calf circumference (CC), number of ulcerations, ulceration localization, ulcer size, duration of the ulcer and ulcer locoregional characteristics. Patients aged ≥ 65 years had longer incidence of ulceration and a larger number of previous episodes of ulceration. In patients aged ≥ 65 years, calf circumference was statistically higher, which can significantly affect the speed and healing rate. Larger surface area were more commonly reported in patients aged < 65 years with statistically significant $p < 0.05$, while elderly patients had statistically ($p < 0.01$) prolonged ulceration. Concerning the locoregional characteristics of CVU, dermatitis was more commonly seen in patients aged ≥ 65 years, while lipodermatosclerosis was more prevalent in patients aged < 65 years. In relation to the wound infection, patients aged ≥ 65 years had a statistically higher prevalence of ulcer infections. Elderly patients with CVU represent a distinct group in terms of aetiology, natural history and prognosis.

Acta Medica Medianae 2020;59(1):71-75.

Key words: *chronic leg ulceration, venous ulceration, the elderly*