

Stasis Dermatitis

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Background

Stasis dermatitis is a common inflammatory skin disease that occurs on the lower extremities (see the image below). It is usually the earliest cutaneous sequela of chronic [venous insufficiency](#) with venous hypertension and may be a precursor to more problematic conditions, such as venous leg ulceration and lipodermatosclerosis. (See Etiology.)



This patient exhibits the classic hyperpigmentation and varicosities of stasis dermatitis. There is inflammatory eczematous change overlying the medial ankle, with healed scarring from recent ulceration.

Accurate diagnosis is critical, as many patients admitted for the treatment of cellulitis actually have stasis dermatitis and lipodermatosclerosis.^[1]

Stasis dermatitis typically affects middle-aged and elderly patients, rarely occurring before the fifth decade of life. An exception would be patients with acquired venous insufficiency due to surgery, trauma, or [thrombosis](#). (See Epidemiology.)

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