

CASE 29-3

A 30-year-old woman presents with a 2-week history of a painful rapidly enlarging ulcer on her left thigh. She has no history of diabetes or leg edema. She has a 1-month history of diarrhea and abdominal cramps. She is afebrile and denies trauma to the leg.



What is the one mostly likely diagnosis?

- (A) Venous ulcer
- (B) Arterial ulcer
- (C) Mixed venous and arterial ulcer
- (D) Pyoderma gangrenosum
- (E) Bacterial abscess that has eroded

The correct answer is (D), pyoderma gangrenosum.

Pyoderma gangrenosum typically presents with ulcers that have elevated, undermined edges. The patient's history is compatible with an inflammatory bowel disorder, which may be associated with pyoderma gangrenosum.

Venous and arterial ulcers rarely occur on the thigh and also rarely occur in a patient of this age. A bacterial abscess may drain and erode, but typically does not ulcerate.