

CASE 29-1

A 70-year-old man has a 5-month history of an ulcer on his right lower leg. He has a 3-year history of leg edema, and 1 year ago he developed an erythematous scaly plaque within the area of the edema.

What is the one most likely diagnosis?

- (A) Arterial ulcer
- (B) Venous ulcer
- (C) Ulcer due to chronic infection in the plaque
- (D) Pyoderma gangrenosum
- (E) Neuropathic ulcer



The correct answer is (B), venous ulcer.

Venous ulcers typically occur in patients with a history of long-standing edema and stasis dermatitis.

Arterial ulcers usually are not associated with a pre-existing rash. Chronic bacterial infections rarely cause leg ulcers. The ulcers associated with pyoderma gangrenosum have undermined and frequently violaceous borders. Neuropathic ulcers are typically on the foot.