

Pyoderma gangrenosum (also see Chap. 7, section 48 a(iv))

- A. The initial lesion is a tender pustule on a red or violaceous base or a red papule or nodule which is often thought to be an insect bite



Pyoderma gangrenosum
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Pyoderma gangrenosum

- A. The initial lesion develops into a painful ulcer with a necrotic undermined and overhanging border, which has a violet-gray gun metal color and inflammatory rim
- B. Base of ulcer may be purulent or vegetative
- C. Ulcer extends centrifugally, may rapidly expand
- D. Satellite violaceous papules which ulcerate may appear distal to the edge of the ulcer
- E. Most commonly occurs on the lower extremities (pretibial area) but may be anywhere
- F. Pathergy is common (trauma initiates and aggravates lesions)
- G. One or multiple lesions may develop
- H. Associated illnesses—seen in 50 % of patients
 - 1. Inflammatory bowel disease—20–30 %
 - 2. Arthritis—20 %
 - 3. Hematologic malignancy—15–25 %
 - a. Leukemia
 - b. Myelodysplastic syndrome
 - c. Monoclonal gammopathies
 - 4. Drug induced



Pyoderma gangrenosum
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Pyoderma gangrenosum

- A. Ulcer on the lower leg with a purulent base and necrotic undermined and overhanging border which has a violet-gray gun metal color and inflammatory rim



Pyoderma gangrenosum
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Pyoderma gangrenosum

- A. Ulcer with irregular, necrotic undermined and overhanging borders
- B. The edge of ulcer is undermined and often has a violet-gray gun metal color and inflammatory rim with a purulent or vegetative base



Pyoderma gangrenosum
Photograph courtesy of the American Academy of Dermatology

a. Atypical Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Atypical pyoderma gangrenosum

- A. Hemorrhagic bullae and superficial erosions
- B. Favors upper extremities (especially the dorsal hands) and face
- C. Usually occurs in the setting of leukemia and myelodysplasia
- D. Systemic features usually absent



Atypical pyoderma gangrenosum
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b. Superficial Granulomatous (Vegetative) Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Superficial granulomatous (vegetative) pyoderma gangrenosum

- A. Localized superficial vegetative, boggy plaque
- B. Favors the trunk



Superficial granulomatous (vegetative) pyoderma gangrenosum
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c. Pyostomatitis Vegetans

Pyostomatitis vegetans

- A. Chronic, vegetative sterile pyoderma on the labial or buccal mucosa
- B. Multiple yellow pustules that often are arranged in linear, serpentine fashion that has been likened to a “snail track”
- C. May be associated with vegetative or ulcerative pyoderma gangrenosum
- D. Seen in patients with inflammatory bowel disease



Pyostomatitis vegetans
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