Venous Stasis Ulcers: A common leg ulcer, uncommon costs

According to the American College of Phlebology, venous stasis ulcers affect about 1-2% of adults – approximately 3-6 million afflicted adults in the United States. They are 1.5 to 3 times more common in women than in men and they are found in as many as 3.4% of patients older than 80 years of age.

Accelerating wound care

Venous stasis ulcers occur when veins in the legs do not properly pump blood back to the heart. In such cases, blood tends to pool near the ankle as gravity pulls fluid and blood downward. Prolonged swelling of the legs and ankles causes increased pressure in this area, reducing blood flow and oxygen delivery to the skin. As a result skin breakdown may occur resulting in an open ulcer of the skin that often drains moderate to large amounts of fluid.

People at risk for developing such ulcers are typically older, have a low level of daily activity or exercise, a history of extended periods of standing or any condition resulting in excess fluid collection in the body or legs. Contributing to ulcer development are hereditary factors, obesity, blood clots, varicose veins and lower leg trauma or injury such as bumping into an object (coffee table or car door for example).

About the Methodist Wound Treatment Center

The Methodist Wound Treatment Center is an outpatient program that focuses on chronic and non-healing wounds. Using advanced treatment modalities and a case management model, we help patients improve the quality of their lives. In partnership with physicians, nurses and multiple medical disciplines, we provide invaluable care for patients.

Let the Methodist Wound Treatment Center heal your patients today

For more information about advanced venous ulcer wound care, contact us today.
Symptoms of Chronic Venous Stasis Disease

Symptoms of chronic venous stasis disease may include any or all of the following:

- Swelling in legs and ankles, skin discoloration (brown, red or bluish)
- Dry scaly itchy skin
- Aching or feeling of tiredness in legs that is relieved by elevating legs
- Prominent superficial veins
- Skin ulcer (usually above the ankle on inside surface of the leg)

Venous ulcers are the major cause of chronic wounds, occurring in 70% to 90% of chronic wound cases.

SOURCE: Snyder RJ (2005) "Treatment of nonhealing ulcers with allografts"