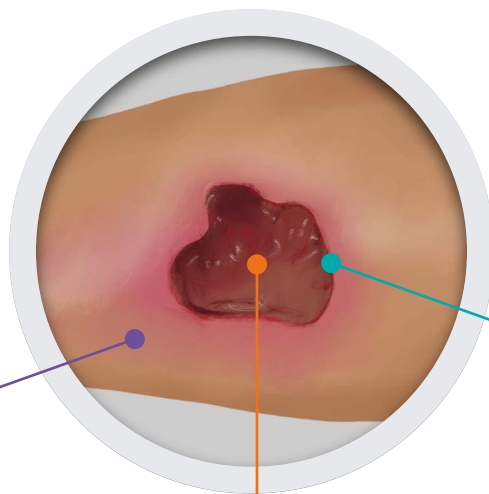





Wound assessment and dressing choice for venous ulcers

Dressings should be selected based on the properties of the wound and surrounding skin. Consider the wound location, size, depth, exudate level, and presence of infections. Dressings can help symptom control and promote healing. However, compression therapy remains the cornerstone of treatment.















Debridement methods

-  Surgical or sharp
-  Autolytic with hydrocolloid, hydrogels or honey dressings
-  Larvae

Surrounding skin	Wound bed	Wound edge
Dry or flaky	Dry or flaky	Dry or flaky
Rehydrate, using exfoliants and emollients. Consider a moisture-donating or moisture-retaining dressing		
Macerated or oedematous	Macerated or oedematous	Macerated or oedematous
Choose a dressing capable of managing exudate and change frequently		
Callus or hyperkeratotic skin	Non-viable, necrotic tissue or slough	Excessive necrotic skin or slough
Debridement is required to remove non-viable or unhealthy tissue		
Evidence of cellulitis Treat with systemic antibiotics	Local infection or biofilm suspected Treat with antimicrobial dressing or topical antiseptic preparation	Raised or rolled edge Biopsy recommended
Active eczema Topical steroids and emollients as required Consider whether the dressing could be causing irritation or allergy	Abnormal inflammation Consider debridement or protease modulating matrix dressings	Epidermal margin not advancing Reassess underlying diagnosis

Choice of dressing

Exudate level  Dry  Low  Moderate  High

Flat wounds	Shallow wounds	Deep wounds	Locally infected wounds
	Hydrogel sheets 		Many kinds of dressing are available impregnated with antimicrobial agents, such as:
	Soft polymer dressings 		
	Hydrocolloid fibrous 		
	Alginates 		
Low-adherent dressings 			
Semipermeable films 			
Hydrocolloid sheets 			
Foam dressings 			
		Chronic wound with prolonged inflammatory phase	
		Protease modulating matrix dressings	
			Iodine
			Chlorhexidine
			Silver
			Honey
			Dialkylcarbamoyl chloride
			Polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB)