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RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF SEROLOGIC PARAMETERS OF 50 PATIENTS DUE TO VASCULITIS: HOW MUCH DIAGNOSTIC IS MEANINGFUL?

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In 5-10% of all patients with a chronic leg ulcer this is caused by a vasculitis. That means that, according to the current literature, vasculitic diseases represent the most often diagnosed aetiology after chronic venous insufficiency and peripheral obstructive arterial disease. Beside the primary vasculitis the causes of the more often secondary vasculitis are frequently infectious diseases, drugs, autoimmune diseases or neoplasia. In addition to the clinical and histological diagnostics, an extensive serological diagnostics represent an important parameter in the gold standard of vasculitic diagnostics. Despite this expensive diagnostics in most patients it is not possible to identify specific factors. That leads to our central question - how much diagnostic is meaningful?

In our retrospective study we evaluated the serological parameters of 50 patients with a chronic leg ulcer due to a vasculitis. The results showed an increase of the inflammation parameters like C-reactive-protein in 80% a fibrinogen in 69% of all patients. Numerous additional examined serological parameters as for example auto-antibodies, clotting system, immunoglobulines or serum electrophoreses showed altogether an unspecific variance without signs for associated factors.

The results of our study demonstrate that beside the clinical and histological findings the large quantity of serological parameters is not able to diagnose other associated factors. Therefore the serological diagnostic should be restricted to the individual clinical symptoms.