

# ISCHAEMIC WOUNDS – DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT POSSIBILITIES

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Wounds on extremities caused by ischemia are the single most common cause of minor and major amputations, causing disability, personal deterioration and community costs.

Within the last 25 years, the possibilities for precise diagnosis and improved treatment have increased dramatically.

Assessing the wound can be done non-invasive by toe-pressure measurement, transcutaneous oxygen tension, ultrasound, MRI and CT-angio.

In treatment, the open surgical procedures for revascularization has gone down in favor of minimal invasive catheter-based techniques, but the 50 yrs old vena saphena magna in situ bypass is still a cornerstone in revascularization procedures.

Starting the experience in the small coronary arteries, the balloon and stent technology has now reached the foot sole, and what was not even thought of as a possibility a few years ago – reopening of a 20 cm long occluded segment of a crural or pedal artery – is now feasible. Of course everything is not possible – but this is not to be known before proper assessment has been done – and the new treatment modalities have demonstrated limb conservation at a high rate.