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Simvastatin as a novel therapeutic option for venous ulcers: A report of successful closure after 9 weeks of therapy

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Abstract

Venous ulceration is a consequence of chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), brought about by venous hypertension, microangiopathy and chronic inflammation. These ulcers are the most common chronic wounds. More than 50% require prolonged therapy, usually lasting 1 year. Although the cornerstone of CVI management is compression, any treatment likely to alleviate the burden of the disease must be considered. Statins are cholesterol-lowering drugs with anti-inflammatory effects and potential wound-healing properties through epithelialization, vascular relaxation, neovascularization and reducing bacterial load. However, it is unknown if statins will improve healing outcomes. This is the first documented case of a venous ulcer treated with statins. Baseline widest diameter, surface area and volume were 8cm, 59cm^2 and 4.2cm^3 respectively. Within 2 weeks of simvastatin monotherapy (40mg daily), the volume was halved, and by the sixth week, only 10% remained. Compression was subsequently added to address the underlying CVI. Complete closure was achieved after nine weeks.

Biography

Mara Evangelista is the chief resident of the Department of Dermatology at the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila Philippines. She graduated from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, with top honors. She has several ongoing and completed researches on Wound Healing and Atopic Dermatitis.