





### Statement of Purpose

We present a successful outcome of limb salvage from an extensive case of lower extremity necrotizing fasciitis. Serial Incision and Drainage followed by routine outpatient follow up visits for wound care proved to be an effective approach towards limb salvage.

#### Literature Review

Necrotizing fasciitis is a soft tissue infection that spreads rapidly. The infection can spread to the deep fascial layers. Early diagnosis and treatment are important for successful limb salvage<sup>1</sup>.

Initial presentation of the disease can be similar to other soft tissue infections such as gas gangrene. A comprehensive approach using clinical appearance, labs, and imaging can help provide a more accurate diagnosis. When necrotizing fasciitis is identified, treatment must be initiated immediately as it is a surgical emergency<sup>2,3</sup>.

# A Veteran's Limb Salvage Outcome Following an Initial Presentation of Necrotizing Fasciitis Kiana Trent DPM, DABPM, FACPM, FASPS<sup>a</sup>, Asma Jappar DPM<sup>b</sup>, Hiba Mohiuddin DPM<sup>c</sup>, Hummira Abawi DPM, DABPM, FABFAS<sup>d</sup>

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60-year-old male presented to the ED with right lateral foot wound that had initially started as a blister and became progressively worse over the course of two months. Work up demonstrated elevated WBC (19) and BS (1000s) with associated fatigue, weakness, and nausea. While initial CT and Xray did not show concern for any major pathology, MRI showed evidence of necrotizing fasciitis. Patient underwent multiple debridements to clear the infection. Routine wound care was later required for continued limb salvage.

Wound vac application and multiple graft applications alternating stravix, oasis, grafix every 1-2 weeks resulted in significant decrease of RLE wound from initial defect being 4.5cmx9cmx1.4cm to 2cmx5cmx0.5cm on recent measurements.

## Case Study











#### Figure 1.

- a) Initial ED presentation of lateral foot wound
- b) Initial ED presentation of extension of infection plantarly
- c) s/p first I&D
- d) Progress August 2023
- e) Progress September 2023
- f) Current image lateral view (November 2023)
- g) Current image plantar view (November 2023)



# Analysis and Discussion

Significant reduction of wound by nearly 50% following an extensive case of necrotizing fasciitis is noted after 4 months of aggressive wound care therapy.

Necrotizing Fasciitis is a severe soft tissue infection that can extend to the muscular layer. Early diagnosis with clinical findings, imaging and labs can improve chances of limb salvage. This case report provides an example of early detection using imaging and subsequent wound care treatment in an effort to salvage the right lower extremity.

### References

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- 2. Abu El Hawa AA, Dekker PK, Mishu MD, Kim KG, Mizher R, Fan KL, Attinger CE, Evans KK. Early Diagnosis and Surgical Management of Necrotizing Fasciitis of the Lower Extremities: Risk Factors for Mortality and Amputation. Adv Wound Care (New Rochelle). 2022 May;11(5):217-225. doi: 10.1089/wound.2021.0031. Epub 2021 Jul 22. PMID: 34297612.
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