

Leg ulcer - venous

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms

A venous leg ulcer looks like a hollowed area of broken skin and exposed tissue. If you have a venous leg ulcer, you may also have:

- **swollen ankles** that are filled with fluid that temporarily hold the imprint of your finger when pressed (known as pitting oedema),
- **discolouration and darkening** of your skin around the ulcer (known as hyperpigmentation),
- **hardened skin** around the ulcer, which may make your leg feel rigid and resemble the shape of an upside-down champagne bottle (known as lipodermatosclerosis), and
- **small, smooth areas of white skin**, which may have tiny red spots (known as atrophie blanche).

The associated symptoms of a venous leg ulcer are caused by blood not flowing properly through your veins. This is known as venous insufficiency which can cause:

- **leg pain**, which can be continuous, or intermittent (it may come and go),
- **a 'heavy' feeling** in the affected leg,
- **aching**,
- **itching**,
- **swelling**, and
- **venous eczema** (itchy, irritated skin which is caused by high blood pressure in the veins of your leg).