

"Skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs) in patients with hematological malignancies are frequent but dedicated epidemiological studies are limited" Ungaro and Mikulska (2020).



### Abstract:

**PURPOSE OF REVIEW:** Skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs) in patients with hematological malignancies are frequent but dedicated epidemiological studies are limited. The aim of this review is to provide updated description of the main etiological agents, differential diagnosis, and treatment. **RECENT FINDINGS:** In addition to common causes of bacterial skin infections in any kind of patients, such as streptococci and staphylococci (the latter frequently resistant to methicillin), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a frequent agent, with high virulence and typical infection presenting as ecthyma gangrenosum. Among fungi, fusariosis is the mold infection most frequently associated with skin lesions, although other molds and yeasts (including *Candida tropicalis*) should be also considered. External infections associated with central venous catheters are frequent in the hematological setting, and in addition to staphylococci, Gram-negative bacteria, fungi, and even rapid growing nontuberculous mycobacteria should be considered. Immunodeficiency might both blunt the typical inflammatory response and predispose the patients to rapid progression of skin infection to subcutaneous tissues or dissemination. **SUMMARY:** SSTIs in hematology patients can be caused by various infectious agents resulting in similar clinical presentation. Rapid and accurate diagnosis is fundamental in order to reduce morbidity and mortality.

Management of cellulitis and soft tissue infections

Ertapenem for osteoarticular infections in obese patients

Soft tissue laceration caused by intraosseous access insertion

**Reference:**

Ungaro, R. and Mikulska, M. (2020) The skin and soft tissue infections in hematological patients. *Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases*. February 4th. doi: 10.1097/QCO.0000000000000632. .

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