

# Wound Care: Not All Red Is Cellulitis

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**HIPPO**  
EDUCATION



A close-up photograph of a row of crayons in various shades of pink, red, and purple. The crayons are arranged in a slightly curved line, and their labels are visible. A semi-transparent white banner with black text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Red isn't always cellulitis

pig pink

cotton candy

pink pink

nauseous

radical red

orchid

neon

lavender

pink

non

use



- 259 patients admitted from the ED with “cellulitis”
  - 79 (~31%) ultimately didn’t have cellulitis

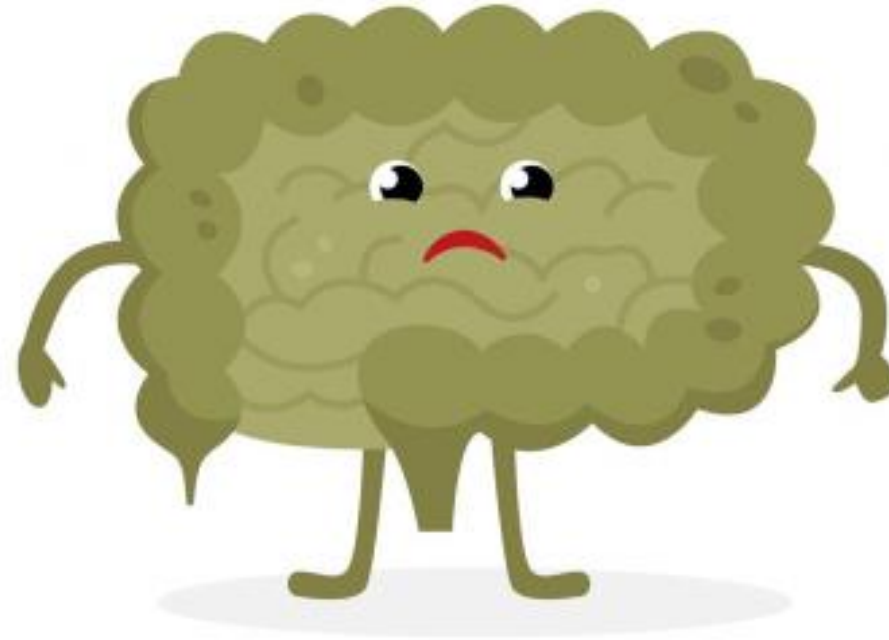
- 84% did not need to be admitted
- 93% received unnecessary antibiotics.
- ~130,000 unnecessary hospitalization nationwide
- ~\$500,000,000/year



# 82%

*“For IV antibiotics”*





Up to 5000 cases of C-diff and ~6 cases of anaphylaxis/yr

## Diagnosis of Cellulitis

Primary Care: 100%  
Dermatology: 10%



A photograph of a patient lying in a hospital bed, wearing a blue hospital gown and white wristbands. The patient is partially covered by a white blanket. In the foreground on the right, a clear plastic IV drip chamber is suspended from a stand, with a clear plastic drip chamber and a blue tube leading down. The background shows a hospital room with medical equipment and a wall-mounted rack. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Pseudo-cellulitis".

# Pseudo-cellulitis

## Stasis Dermatitis







Cellulitis or abscess?

~1200 pts: “*Uncertain of abscess?*”: **8.6%**

### Clinical Evaluation

- Sensitivity: **90.3%**
- Specificity: **97.7%**

### Ultrasound

- Sensitivity: **94%**
- Specificity: **94.1%**



## Certain Cases:



Ultrasound changed management in **1.2%** of cases

## Uncertain cases:

- Sensitivity: 68.5%
- Specificity: 80.4%
  
- Ultrasound changed management in ~24%
  - 84% = appropriate
  - 16% = inappropriate

## How to predict cellulitis

- Asymmetry: (3+)
  - Age: (2+)
  - Other infectious stuff (1+)
- 
- 0-2 = ~82% pseudocellulitis
  - 5+ = 82% cellulitis



Out/inpatient?

- Antibiotics?
  - Shorter = better?
- Elevation?
- Steroids?



# Session Evaluation

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- To claim CME, you must complete a separate survey available after the convention.

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Not likely at all                      Neutral                      Extremely likely

0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

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