

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Venous Leg Ulcers

D I A G N O S I S

Historical clues

- History of Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT)
- Heredity
- Advanced age (Mean age 70 yrs)
- Female gender
- Prior orthopedic procedures
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Occupations with prolonged standing
- Greater height



Physical Examination

- Lower Extremity Edema
- Medial/Lateral gaiter ulcer
- Hyperpigmentation (Hemosiderin deposits)
- Absence of hair below the knee
- Thickening of the nails
- Lipodermatosclerosis
- Atrophe blanche



A Clinical Diagnosis

- A gaiter ulcer with clinical signs and symptoms of venous insufficiency is a venous leg ulcer.
- Venous leg ulcers have an irregular shape. They are shallow and are rarely associated with osteomyelitis.
- For ulcers that are deep or not in the gaiter region consider biopsy.



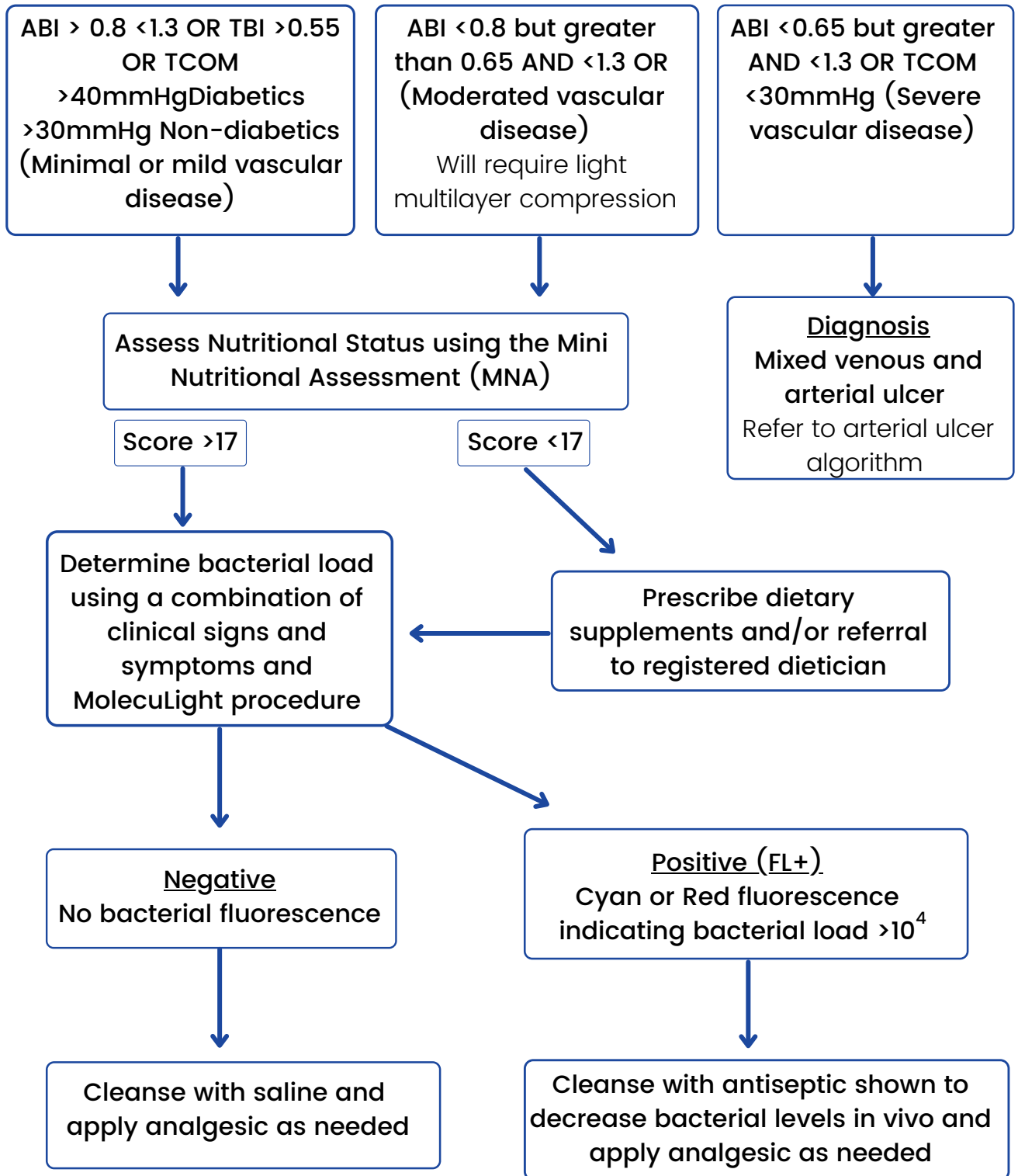
Differential Diagnosis

- **Skin cancer**
- **Pyoderma gangrenosum**
- **Vasculitic ulceration**
- **Martorell Hypertensive ulcer in Achilles area**

Assess Vascular Status

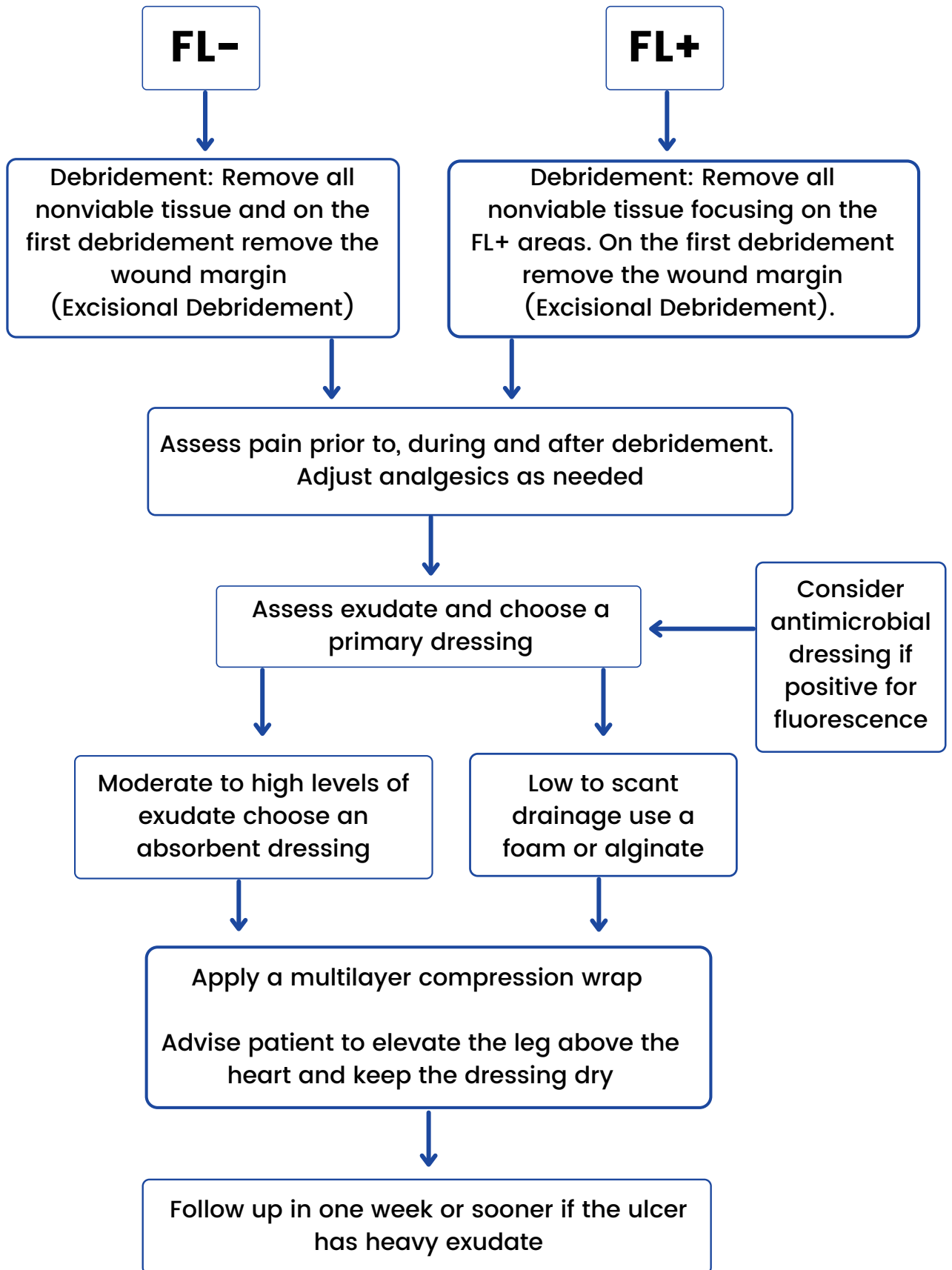
- Objective measure of arterial status (ABI/TBI, TCOM,)

WORKUP



& TREATMENT

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