Tracleer (Bosentan; Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd.) for treatment of digital ulcers in patients with scleroderma

Citation
Tracleer (Bosentan; Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd.) for treatment of digital ulcers in patients with scleroderma.

Authors’ conclusions
The cause of scleroderma is not known but it is thought that scleroderma is an autoimmune disease that causes the skin and connective tissue to tighten and harden, which can lead to scarring, ulcers, and gastrointestinal disorders and that can affect major organs, such as the lung, heart, and kidneys, and the blood vessels. Digital ulcers manifest as part of the more serious form of scleroderma, called systemic sclerosis, occurring in 30% to 60% of patients. Digital ulcers are primarily caused by decreased blood flow to the digits, and possible thrombosis, but thickening and tightening of the skin of the fingers and toes (sclerodactyly), the formation of calcium deposits in soft tissue (calcinosis), and/or endothelial cell injury may also play a role in the development of digital ulcers. Digital ulcers can recur and are often extremely painful, slow to heal, result in scars and tissue loss, and become infected, which can lead to bone infection (osteomyelitis), gangrene, and amputation.

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