

**(CHRONIC SERPIGINOUS ULCER)**

**DEFINITION**

1. **Mooren's ulcer** is a superficial ulcer starting at the corneal margin and spreading over the whole of this tissue.

**CLINICAL FEATURES**

2. It commences as one or more grey infiltrates which break down to form small spreading ulcers which eventually coalesce. The ulcer undermines the epithelium and superficial lamellae at the advancing border, forming a characteristic overhanging edge, the base becoming vascularized.
3. Erosion of the epithelium is accompanied by pain and watering of the eye.
4. Perforation is rare but intermittent progression over several months is usual until a thin nebula forms over the whole cornea with diminution of sight.
5. In about 25% of cases both corneae are affected but not always simultaneously.

**AETIOLOGY**

6. Mooren's ulcer is uncommon and usually occurs in elderly people.
7. The cause is essentially unknown but its occurrence in elderly people suggests degeneration of the cornea is a factor.
8. However, erosion seems to be initiated by autoimmune lysis of the epithelium with consequent release of collagenolytic enzymes.

**CONCLUSION**

9. **Mooren's ulcer** is an ulcer of the epithelium of the cornea, the aetiology of which is unknown.

**REFERENCES**

Miller Stephen J H. Parsons' Diseases of the Eye. 18<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1990. Edinburgh. Churchill Livingstone. p153.

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