

## Limb Salvage by Popliteal Artery Ligation in a Case of AV Fistula: A Case Report

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### Case

An young boy of 12 yrs presented with chronic non healing ulcers on the left ankle of many years duration due to congenital, diffuse, extensive infrapopliteal A-V fistula. The ulcers were frequently bleeding profusely necessitating repeated blood transfusions. Angiography and embolization of arteries around the ankle had proved futile. Multiple ligation and excision of vessels along the posterior tibial artery did not make any difference. Out of desperation and as a life saving measure, the parents were requesting for amputation of the leg and the boy was prepared for it. As a last resort before sacrificing the limb, and with profound scepticism, we

performed popliteal artery ligation. Soon after, the ulcers stopped bleeding and started healing. Thrill and bruit on the leg disappeared; the limb remained viable except the tip of the great toe which developed dry gangrene. He developed fixed flexion at knee joint which was corrected by POP cast.

### Results & Conclusions

At present the ulcers have healed completely and he is ambulating. Experience with popliteal artery ligation for AV fistula is uncommon and isolated. This has saved the precious limb and prevented a major disability.