



## Clinical Trials-Research

### **Digital Sympathectomy of the Lower Extremity: A Novel Approach to Toe Salvage**

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Sympathectomy as a treatment modality for nonhealing ulcers and disabling pain of the fingers of scleroderma patients has been shown to have favorable outcomes. We have extended this microsurgical technique to 11 toes in six scleroderma patients as a salvage attempt before amputation. After a 20-month follow-up, all patients were satisfied with their results. All patients reported pain relief, and nine of the 11 toes showed complete ulcer healing. No amputations were performed. Sympathectomy of the toe is a novel treatment option for scleroderma patients and has not yet been described in literature. Sympathectomy offers select patients an alternative to toe amputation when conventional medical therapy has failed.