

## Materials and Methods

A keyword search (“pyoderma” and/or “gangr\*nosum”) was used in the electronic patient files in the Department of Dermatology, University Hospital Zurich (USZ), for all patients having a hospital admission between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2012 at the USZ. Patients in the Kantonsspital St. Gallen (KSSG), and in the private praxis of Prof. Werner Kempf (also USZ) during the same period were added by paper-based patient registry search. The resulting 179 patients were manually analyzed for suspicious diagnosis of pyoderma and, according to the clinical and histopathological information, 38 patients were identified. The other 141 patients were excluded due to other causes like unspecific chronic ulceration (63 patients, 35.2%), infection (28 patients, 15.6%), vasculopathy (15 patients, 8.4%, including 9 cases of Martorell hypertensive ischemic leg ulcer, HYTILU), vasculitis (12 patients, 6.7%), tumor (3 patients, 1.7%), autoimmune bullous (1 patient, 0.6%), and others (19 patients, 10.6%). Of those 38 patients who all fulfilled the diagnostic criteria, including the clinical appearance, by Su et al. [16], we did a histopathological re-assessment and excluded another 4 patients with suspicious HYTILU (3 patients) and morphea (1 patient). A total of 34 patients were included in the study according to the criteria suggested by Su et al. [16] or von den Driesch et al. [17] (Fig. 1). Demographic data (gender, age, BMI, alcohol/nicotine consumption) and comorbidities, date of diagnosis, time to diagnosis, localization, recurrences, lesion characteristics, histology, laboratory values, treatments, side effects, time to resolution, and mortality were analyzed for each case retrospectively. For better comparability, data were analyzed when patients were hospitalized during flares or recurrences. As close follow-up of ulcer healing was not always documented, complete and incomplete ulcer healing was evaluated at discharge. Microsoft Excel® version 14.3.2, 2011, and GraphPad Prism® version 7.0b, September 30, 2016, were used for statistical analysis.