

Patients with diabetes attending a tertiary centre multidisciplinary foot clinic undergoing lower limb angiography: One year outcomes

We wanted to assess the outcomes of vascular patients attending our multidisciplinary regional foot service where physicians and surgeons jointly assess patients

We reviewed the foot disease history, current presentation, & 1 year outcome of all patients with diabetes who underwent a lower limb angiogram between 01/01/09 to 12/31/10

Baseline Characteristics: 80 patients were included, 54M:26F; mean age of 75.8yrs. 94% had T2DM, with 43% on insulin. 45% had had previous lower limb surgical intervention - 36% more than once. 62 patients had CVD. 43 were current or ex-smokers. For the index admission, 29 patients had foot ulcers, 21 claudication, 13 gangrene, 9 critical ischaemia, 5 rest pain, & 3 had other presentations requiring angiogram. 31 patients (39%) progressed to angioplasty. For the other 49 patients, 27 were treated conservatively, 12 had amputations, 6 underwent bypass, 4 patients had other interventions. Outcomes: At one year, 52% of patients were symptom-free or discharged from vascular follow up in the conservatively-treated arm, compared to 55% treated with revascularisation & 45% treated with an amputation. Conversely, 15% of patients treated conservatively had progressed to amputation, compared to 14% in the revascularisation group. Of patients who had prior surgical intervention of the lower limb, 36% were symptom free, compared to 55% who did not have previous surgery. 46% of patients admitted with gangrene underwent amputation either at presentation or at one year follow up, compared to only 27% admitted with other symptoms

In contrast to previous studies our results show that patients who become symptom free at follow up had similar outcomes in the surgical intervention & aggressively medically treated groups. Our data is similar to previous work showing that patients presenting with gangrene are more likely to progress to amputation whilst those without previous surgical treatment were more likely to be symptom free at follow up