

Prevalence of risk factors and burden of diabetic foot disease amongst patients on haemodialysis

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Aims: The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of diabetes foot disease and its risk factors amongst patients undergoing haemodialysis.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional observational study of all patients with diabetes undergoing hemodialysis at a University Teaching Hospital. Case notes were reviewed for baseline characteristics, micro and macrovascular complications, past foot ulceration and amputation.

Patients were examined for neuropathy, peripheral pulses, foot ulceration, and foot deformity.

Results: 55/137 (40.1%) patients receiving haemodialysis in hospital had diabetes. History and clinical examination was performed on 48 patients {mean age (SD), 64.3 (13.1) years}. 26/48 (54.2%) patients were male. Hypertension (89.6%) and hyperlipidemia (70.8%) were the most frequent comorbidities. 10.4% patients reported symptoms of intermittent claudication. 16.2% patients had venous eczema. 78.3% patients had at least one palpable pulse. Neurotip perception was impaired in 55.2% and 50% of patients in the left and right foot respectively. Vibration perception was impaired in 28.6% and 30.8% of patients at the left and right metatarsophalangeal joint area respectively.

Foot deformity was present in 38.5% patients. 8 (16.7%) patients had a previous amputation, 5 (10.4%) patients had past Charcot neuroarthropathy and 9 (18.7%) patients had a current foot ulcer.

Conclusions: There is a high prevalence of risk factors along with past and current foot disease amongst patients, with diabetes on haemodialysis, highlighting the need for enhanced surveillance and early treatment.