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Effect of peripheral blood supply on the wound healing process with diabetic foot patients

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Diabetes mellitus and its complication has been becoming a global challenge and the most common cause of morbidity and mortality all over the world. It is predicted that by 2040 there will be over 642 million people with diabetes. The lifetime incidence of foot ulcers occurs in up to 25% of diabetic patients. We need to pay attention to diabetic complications and focus on preventing them rather than treating them, especially diabetic foot ulcers. The study investigated the effect of peripheral blood status on the wound-healing process with diabetic foot patients. 30 patients with diabetic ulcers were assessed over a period of three months where every patient has baseline measurements of their ankle-brachial pressure index, Doppler ultrasound, capillary refill, foot temperature, dependent rubor, and intermittent claudication. Appropriate ulcer treatment was instituted over the following three months and the outcome was measured as healed or non-healed ulcer. The study found that 15 patients with normal vascular status had complete wound healing, 7 patients with mild ischemia had complete healing after correcting their risk factors, 5 patients with moderate ischemia had improvement but no healing, and 3 patients with severe ischemia had no healing, gangrene, and toes amputation. The study has proved that there is a strong relationship between the blood supply status and the healing process progression and each diabetic patient must be scanned for vascularity and neuropathy as well.