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Neuroischaemic patients have increased mortality compared with neuropathic patients after severe foot infection: almost 50% of them die in the first year

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We have previously shown that diabetic infection is different in the neuroischaemic compared with the neuropathic foot. We questioned whether there is also a difference in the mortality rate between neuroischaemic and neuropathic patients.

The aim of this study was to compare survival and number of deaths in 58 neuroischaemic and 25 neuropathic patients presenting with infection severe enough to require in-patient treatment.

Follow up period was 5 years. There was a significant difference in the number of deaths during the observational period: 44 out of 58 (72.9%) in the neuroischaemic group and 10 out of 25 (40%) in the neuropathic group, ($p=0.006$). The highest number of deaths was observed within the year of foot infection for both groups: 25/58 in the neuroischaemic and 5/25 in the neuropathic patients, $p=0.037$. Mortality was associated with age ($r=0.321$, $p=0.003$) and presence of ischaemia ($r=0.302$, $p=0.005$). Median survival time was 913 days (Interquartile Range: 244-1825) in the neuroischaemic patients and 1825 days (553-1825) in the neuropathic patients, $p=0.015$.

These findings suggest that survival is reduced in neuroischaemic patients with severe foot infection compared with neuropathic patients and almost 50% of the neuroischaemic patients die within the year of infection.