

**Mortality in diabetic and non-diabetic patients after amputations performed from 1996 to****2005. A 3-year follow-up study**

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**Background:** Diabetes is the leading cause of all non-traumatic lower-extremity amputations worldwide. The objective of this study was to look at the prevalence of amputations and the survival rates between subjects with and without diabetes.

**Patients-Methods:** We performed a retrospective study of all non-traumatic amputations performed at our centre in the years 1996-2005 in patients with (n = 183) and without (n = 75) diabetes. Survival status was assessed from the first amputation until 31 December 2005.

**Results:** In the diabetic group the prevalence of amputations was 2.4 times higher in comparison with the nondiabetics. Altogether, 54.6% of the amputees with and 51.6% of those without diabetes died in a mean (95% CI) 4.3 (3.5-5.1) and 6.6 (4.6-8.6) years after the first amputation, respectively (P = 0.65). Diabetic patients underwent more often contralateral amputation (P=0.02) as well as a second amputation (P=0.003) in comparison with nondiabetic subjects. Predictors of mortality in the diabetic group, after adjustment for sex, were age [Hazard Ratio (HR) (95% CI): 1.04 (1.02-1.06), P< 0.001], and the level of amputation (major versus minor) [1.55 (1.00-2.40), P = 0.05]. The respective values in the non-diabetic patients were 1.06 (1.03-1.08), P< 0.001, and 3.12 (1.27-7.64), P = 0.01. Median hospital stay was comparable between the two groups.

**Conclusions:** Prevalence of amputations is higher in diabetic patients. Furthermore, mortality was high in both diabetic and nondiabetic patients. Age and the level of amputations were associated with the survival status in both groups. In addition, survival and duration of hospital stay were not different between diabetic and nondiabetic amputees.