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A Study of Patients Presenting with Neuropathic vs. Neuroischaemic Foot

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Background and aims: Some authorities have suggested that the number of diabetic patients with lower extremity ischaemia is substantially increasing. The aim of this study was to examine the frequency of neuropathic and neuroischaemic foot and also to ascertain if there is a difference in patient characteristics between those presenting with the former and those with the latter condition. **Patients and methods:** This study was a survey of 1050 patients attending a diabetic foot clinic. Presenting symptom and patient characteristics were studied retrospectively. Patients were classified as neuropathic (evidence of neuropathy with normal peripheral circulation) or neuroischaemic (presence of neuropathy and peripheral arterial occlusive disease). **Results:** Overall, 739 patients (70.4%) were classified as neuropathic, whereas 311 (29.6%) were diagnosed as neuroischaemic. There was no significant difference ($p=0.783$) in the male: female ratio between neuropathic (434: 305) and neuroischaemic patients (186: 125). Type 1 diabetes was significantly ($p<0.001$) more frequent in neuropathic (177 patients, 24%) as compared to neuroischaemic patients (26 patients, 8.4%). Age at presentation was significantly ($p<0.001$) higher in neuroischaemic patients (67.9 ± 10 years) as compared to those with neuropathy (53.7 ± 12.6 years). This difference remained significant ($p<0.001$) after adjustment for the increased frequency of type 1 diabetes among neuropathic patients. **Conclusions:** The majority of patients attending a diabetic foot clinic are neuropathic rather than neuroischaemic. Patients with neuropathic foot are significantly younger and have a significantly higher frequency of type 1 diabetes in comparison to those with neuroischaemic foot