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Outcome of 182 mid-foot amputations in patients with diabetes

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Mid-foot amputations are performed on many diabetic patients but little is known about the outcome. The aim of this study was to analyse the outcome of mid-foot amputations in diabetic patients. All diabetic patients in a defined population undergoing ray, partial forefoot or transmetatarsal amputation between 1982 and 2003 were investigated according to a standardised protocol and all but one were followed until final outcome (healing or death). One hundred and eighty-two patients with an average age of 73 (32-94) years at the time of amputation were investigated. Forty-nine percent healed at the primary amputation level, 59% healed below the ankle joint and 80% of all primary amputations healed at the same or at a more proximal amputation level. Forty-two percent of the patients underwent one or more reamputations and 19% died before healing was achieved. Median healing time for those who healed below the ankle was 30 (3-210) weeks. Thus, in this population based study, 59% of all mid-foot amputations healed distal to the ankle joint at the price of long healing times. Further studies are needed to analyse which factors can be used to even better predict outcome of mid-foot amputations in patients with diabetes.