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Analysis on the medical cost of the diabetic patients with foot problems and peripheral artery disease.

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Objective: To investigate the medical cost of diabetic patients with foot problems and peripheral artery disease. **Methods:** The Type 2 diabetic patients, admitted into the endocrinology departments of 14 teaching hospitals from 1 Jan to 31 Dec, 2004, with foot problems were surveyed for their type and phase of foot ulcers, diabetic complications, medical cost and general personal characteristics. **Results:** The average medical cost of these patients was RMB 14906±7072 (about US \$ 1640 ± 873), drug and examination cost were separately 56% and 19% of the total cost. There was obviously higher medical cost for these patients with longer diabetes duration over 20 years and with these occupation (labor, retired groups). The patients with kidney disease had the significant higher medical cost than those without kidney disease (RMB 11690.7 vs 9493.0; p=0.0013) even if hospital staying was nearly same (21 vs. 20 days). The medical cost was increasing with the severity based on the classification of Wagner System or Texas System. The patients with infectious and/or ischemic foot, as well as those with gangrene foot, were in the hospital longer and had much more medical cost. **Conclusions:** The medical cost is higher for the patients with foot problems, which is related to kidney disease, severity of ulcers and complicated infection and ischemia.