

The diabetic foot in Germany: Analysis of quality in specialized diabetic footcare centres (DFC)

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The German Working Group on the Diabetic Foot developed certification requirements for diabetic foot centres. The aim was to establish comparable DFC with clearly defined treatment structures. Conditions: Structural quality was based on the qualifications of staff, the facility's spatial conditions and a minimum provision of equipment. Also assessed are the application of available guidelines and documentation systems, the establishment of a multidisciplinary team approach between the facility's staff and other experts involved. For the evaluation, each centre documented 30 consecutively seen individuals with diabetic foot lesions. An evaluation of the outcomes was performed 6 months after the initial presentation. All parameters are checked, presented and benchmarked in an open session of the working group. Results: Data from 428 certified and re-certified DFC are presented and a total of 12606 individuals were evaluated. At follow-up assessment 58% of the lesions were completely healed. Amputation rates are given in the table:

Data given in %	Major-Amputation	Minor-Amputation	died
2005	3,9	19	4,6
2006	3,9	24	5,4
2007	3,6	20,1	5,1
2008	2,9	18,8	4,7
2009	2,7	16,7	2,9

Conclusion: These data represent the first analyses of the treatment outcomes of diabetic foot lesions in specialised centers in Germany over a time period of 5 Years. The data reflect a lower rate of major and minor amputations in specialist centres compared with the available epidemiological data for Germany (10-15%) as a whole. The established structure is appropriate to show consistent low rates of amputations over several years.