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Evidence for venous disease in DF disease

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It is commonly stated that venous insufficiency is a risk factor for the development of diabetic foot disease. An analysis of the literature yields little objective evidence and since this could have implications for wound healing, a point prevalence study was done. Diabetics (N=75) with and without foot ulcers were tested for above knee venous incompetence in both deep and superficial venous systems. Venous refilling times (VRT) was measured to assess any haemodynamic disease. The arterio-venous response (AV) was also measured by leg lowering through 50 cms while measuring laser Doppler response on the skin over the dorsum of the foot.

A prevalence of deep venous incompetence of 64% and 70.7% in the right and legs respectively was noted. This finding is significantly higher than a report on the general population ($p < 0.05$).

42.7% and 49.3% of subjects had reduced VRT in right and left legs respectively.

30.7% and 33% of subjects had reduced AV response on right and left legs respectively.

It is difficult to tease out from this data whether the incompetence resulted from reduced AV response or was pathological.

However, these data permit the conclusion that venous incompetence is high in this cohort who also exhibit haemodynamic dysfunction which could have implications for wound healing.