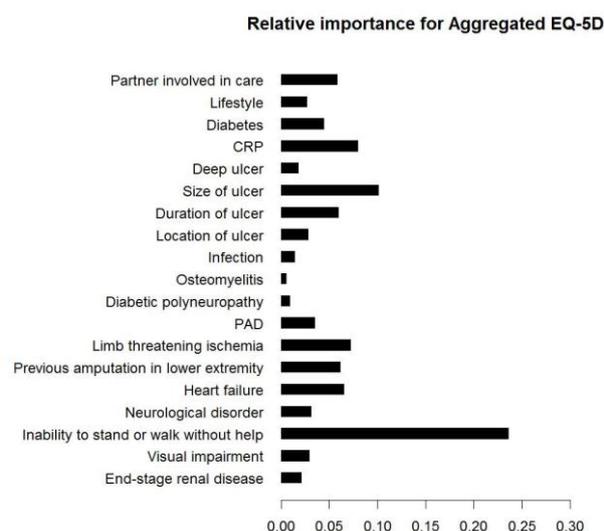


## The relative importance of multifactorial causes of low health-related quality of life in people with newly diagnosed diabetic foot ulcers; the Eurodiale study

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**Background and aims:** The variety in clinical presentation of diabetic foot ulcers suggests a varying impact on the patient's quality of life. The aim of the present study is to



investigate which factors in the clinical presentation of the ulcer are the drivers of patient-reported health-related quality of life (HRQoL). **Materials and methods:** The analysis comprises 1232 patients with new diabetic foot ulcers presenting for treatment at one of the 14 centers in 11 European countries participating in the Eurodiale study. At baseline patient and ulcer characteristics were obtained as well as EQ-5D; a standard-ised instrument for use as a measure of HRQoL that consists of five domains (Mobility, Self-Care, Usual Activities, Pain/Discomfort, Anxiety/Depression), and can be reported as an aggregated score. The relative importance of patient and ulcer factors on HRQoL is investigated by the relative

contributions of each factor to the fit ( $R^2$ ) of a linear regression model. **Results:** The relative importance (%) of each of the factors for the aggregated EQ-5D score is shown in the figure to the left. Inability to stand or walk without help is the main driver of HRQoL. Other important factors over all five EQ-5D domains are ulcer size, CRP and life-threatening ischemia. Factors in the clinical presentation that are strongly associated with poor outcome - infection, PAD, diabetic polyneuropathy - are only important in the EQ-5D domain Pain/Discomfort. **Conclusions:** The findings suggest that in order to improve HRQoL - which, apart from being a goal in itself, may improve prognosis - a focus may be needed that is broader than the conventional focus on the main outcome drivers.