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**The Diabetic Orthoplastics Team: Changing the paradigm in managing complex diabetic foot in United Kingdom.**

PRJ Vas<sup>1</sup>, V Curren<sup>2</sup>, V Kavatharpu<sup>2</sup>, M Bates<sup>1</sup>, W Tang<sup>1</sup>, J Tremlett<sup>1</sup>, V Morris<sup>1</sup>, M Simmgen, N Cavalle<sup>3</sup>, ME Edmonds<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> King's Diabetes Foot Clinic, <sup>2</sup> Dept. of Orthopaedics and Trauma <sup>3</sup> Dept. of Plastic Surgery. King's College Hospital, London, UK.

**Background:** Despite the increasing burden of complex diabetic foot disease including Charcot's, results are less than ideal as the resultant tissue loss is difficult to treat, despite most UK centres having a multidisciplinary diabetic foot team. This is partly because potential complex surgeries may themselves result in challenging to treat large open wound deficits. We report on our inpatient diabetic orthoplastics team (DOPT), developed much in line with the existing trauma model to provide combined input in complex cases to maximise and expedite function and soft tissue repair.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective review of 24 months of inpatient activity since starting DOPT. Referral indications and outcomes were assessed.

**Results:** A total of 44 inpatients with 60 admission episodes involved DOPT. Most referrals were in complex Charcot's patients or in those slow/non healing previous surgically treated (32% and 31% respectively). 45% of the opinions resulted advice on complex wound management, with further 36% receiving a skin graft; 12% had simultaneous combined plastic procedures and plastics assisted in flaps for a further 3%.

**Conclusions:** The DOPT facilitates wound management and surgical procedures in complex diabetic foot disease and adds in plastic surgical experience. Tertiary care foot centres should consider development of such teams.

