

PROJECT ON INTEGRAL CARE FOR DIABETIC FOOT PATIENTS: PROFILE OF PATIENTS ATTENDED

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Background: The incidence of diabetes is increasing in all countries throughout the world. The current number of people with diabetes in the world is already more than 230 million. This condition is the main cause of non-traumatic amputations.

Aim: The main aim of this study is to evaluate the profiles of patients attended during the implementation of an integral care model for diabetics.

Method: 1,447 diabetic patients were evaluated during a primary care network training course in a large city. The study was carried out in the period from August 2002 to April 2003. Data was collected through clinical monitoring forms and the data was entered on an excel spreadsheet and assessed according to various clinical parameters.

Result: The mean age of the assessed patients was 59 years old; 63.72% were female; 32.2% were insulin users; 68.7% had Systemic Arterial Hypertension; 28.13% had foot ulcers, of which 37.84% were infected (infection of 10.64% of the whole sample); 10.16% had already suffered previous amputations; 25.3% had neuropathy detected by means of the Semmes-Weinstein monofilament test; and 85.14% of the assessed patients used inappropriate shoes.

Conclusion: The high number of complications observed may be attributable to these patients lacking information, as suggested by the use of inappropriate shoes in the vast majority of patients, leading to the formation of traumatic ulcers.