

## PERIPHERAL (INFRAGENUAL) VASCULAR RECONSTRUCTION FOR FOOT LESIONS IN OLD DIABETICS – DOES IT MAKE SENSE?

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**Problem:** Peripheral vascular surgery in old diabetic people often means high risk, big effort, bad prognosis and lots of expenses. Do our old patients really benefit?

**Method:** The retrospective analysis was performed on 71 patients, aged >70 years, who were operated on a limb-threatening diabetic foot syndrome with arterial occlusive disease. This infragenual revascularisation was done in between May 2003 and Dec 2004. In August 2005 all patients were asked by means of a questionnaire about quality of life (QoL).

**Outcome:** The patients were in average 77.6 years old. We performed 23 femoro-popliteal (infragenual), 25 crural and 23 pedal reconstructions, in 59.2% with autologous vein material. For perioperative complications we found local infection in 6 cases (8.5%), myocardial infarction in 2 cases (1 letal) and 1 apoplex. Minor amputations were necessary in 36.6%. After 12 months patient survival was 94.4%, the secondary bypass patency 91%, limb salvage rate 97.2% and healing of the foot lesion 70%, respectively. Even more important were results for QoL. After 1 year 83% still lived in their own home and most of them were mobile on their own.

**Summary:** For our patients most important are not any statistical data about bypass patency for many years. They just don't want to become a nursing case (in case of major amputation), they want to live on their own and they want to keep mobility as long as possible. So definitively "it makes sense".