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Submitting author: Mr On Ho TSE

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, HKEC

Fast-Track Screening Program for Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) Patients: Collaboration with Podiatrist

Tse OH (1), Pang YCS (1), Chan YLE (2), Ho WF (1), Tang CN (1)

(1) Department of Surgery, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, (2) Department of Podiatry, Hong Kong East Cluster

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Introduction

PVD is one of the common causes for foot ulcer. Multidisciplinary approach is usually advocated to improve the outcomes, including hasten ulcer healing and reducing in the incidence of major amputation. However, late presentation is not uncommonly seen in our locality. This may be attributed to patients' education, logistic and resources. A fast-track screening program collaborating with podiatrist may streamline the logistic flow and it enabling early assessment and management.

Objectives

(1) To assess the vascular status of patient by non-invasive investigation (2) To provide early assessment by vascular surgeon for further management

Methodology

Patients in podiatry clinic were first screened by podiatrist. High-risk group was then referred to Vascular Nurse Clinic. Vascular nurse will perform clinical assessment and non-invasive test. Segmental brachial pressure index was measured as an objective assessment of PVD. Early assessment by vascular surgeon is arranged whenever there is risk of PVD.

Result

From 1st November 2015 to 2nd January 2016 (10 weeks), total 22 patients referred from podiatry and Rutherford classification scale was used to classify the severity of PVD patients. 12 (54.6%) of them were classified as Rutherford category 4-6. 9 (40.9%) of them were Rutherford category 1-3. 1 patient (4.5%) was certified death before screening. The mean value of the time between the first referral and the nurse and surgeon assessment was 7.7 and 13.5 respectively. Same day assessment by vascular nurse and vascular surgeon were achieved in some patients. Among these 21 arterial insufficiency patients, there were 8 (38.1%) patients needed to have Peripheral Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) of lower limb artery and 9 (42.9%) of them were being prescribed vasodilator to relieve the symptoms. Conservative treatment

was adopted in 4 cases (19%) in view of poor pre-morbid status. Conclusion:
This fast track screening program is able to provide early assessment and
management of the PVD patients. A longer duration of this study and follow-up may
review the effectiveness of this program.