



Effective Health Care Peripheral Artery Disease Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Peripheral artery disease (PAD) will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominators: Two health care professional associations

Nomination Summary: The nominators question the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of antiplatelet agents, exercise, endovascular intervention, and bypass surgery for improving health outcomes for patients with peripheral artery disease.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): Adult patients with PAD and comorbid or multimorbid disease

Intervention(s): Drugs (antiplatelets) and interventions (endovascular intervention [percutaneous transluminal arterial angioplasty and stenting], bypass surgery), and exercise therapy

Comparator(s): KQ1/KQ2: antiplatelet therapy, antiplatelet therapy and aspirin, comparison of two different antiplatelet therapies; KQ3: exercise therapy, endovascular intervention; KQ4: endovascular intervention, bypass surgery

Outcome(s): Improvements in mortality, morbidity, quality of life; increased walking time and distance; improved wound healing; decreased rates of amputation; decreased rates of cardiovascular events; bleeding risks; contrast nephropathy; poor wound healing; amputation; lack of improvement in walking distance; lack of improvement in quality of life

Key Questions from Nominators:

1. Does aspirin reduce the risk of adverse cardiovascular events (MI, stroke, cardiovascular death) in patients with PAD? Is there a differential benefit in symptomatic and asymptomatic PAD patients?
2. Is clopidogrel more effective than aspirin in reducing adverse cardiovascular events in PAD?
3. Is endovascular intervention (PTA, stents) more effective than exercise therapy in

- improving walking distance in patients with intermittent claudication?
4. Is endovascular intervention as effective as bypass surgery in maintaining amputation-free survival in patients with critical limb ischemia?"

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- PAD is a prevalent disease associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular events. At this time, the benefit of anti-platelet therapy in patients with PAD and the comparative effectiveness of exercise versus endovascular intervention for relieving claudication and of surgical versus endovascular revascularization to salvage ischemic limbs are uncertain. A review on this topic could help inform clinical practice guidelines.