



## A MODERN APPROACH TO THE COMPLEX TREATMENT OF DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS. (LITERATURE REVIEW)

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Article history:	Abstract:
<b>Received:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) is the most costly and devastating complication of diabetes mellitus, which affect 15% of diabetic patients during their lifetime. Based on National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence strategies, early effective management of DFU can reduce the severity of complications such as preventable amputations and possible mortality, and also can improve overall quality of life. The management of DFU should be optimized by using a multidisciplinary team, due to a holistic approach to wound management is required. Based on studies, blood sugar control, wound debridement, advanced dressings and offloading modalities should always be a part of DFU management. Furthermore, surgery to heal chronic ulcer and prevent recurrence should be considered as an essential component of management in some cases. Also, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, electrical stimulation, negative pressure wound therapy, bio-engineered skin and growth factors could be used as adjunct therapies for rapid healing of DFU. So, it's suggested that with appropriate patient education encourages them to regular foot care in order to prevent DFU and its complications
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### UNDER MANAGEMENT

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is one of the main problems of healthsystems and a global threat to public health, which has increased dramatically over the past 2 decades [1,2]. According to epidemiological studies, the number of patients with diabetes increased from about 30 million cases in 1985, 177 million in 2000. to 285 million in 2010, and according to experts, if the situation persists, by 2030 more than 360 million people will suffer from diabetes [3, 4].

Patients with diabetes have developed severe complications, one of which is diabetic foot ulcer (SFD). DYS is a frequent complication of diabetes, which tends to increase over the past decades [5-7]. Overall, researchers estimate that 15% of patients with diabetes will suffer from DYAS during their lifetime [8]. Although it is difficult to obtain accurate data on the prevalence of DYAS, the presence of this complication ranges from 4% to 27% [9-11].

The incidence of diabetes has shifted from developed countries in Europe and the United States to developing countries in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean [77].

To date, DYS is considered the leading incidence and the leading cause of hospitalization in patients with diabetes [1,5,12,13]. It is estimated that approximately 20% of hospitalizations among patients with diabetes are the result of DYAS [14]. Indeed, DYAS can lead to infection, gangrene, amputation and even death if the necessary care is not provided [14]. On the other hand, with the development of DYAS, the risk of ulcer progression increases, which could eventually lead to amputation. In general, the frequency of amputations of the lower extremities in patients with diabetes is 15 times higher than in patients without diabetes [8]. It is estimated that approximately 50-70% of all lower limb amputations occur due to dyas [8]. In addition, it is reported that every 30seconds worldwide, one leg is amputated due to dyas [9].

In addition, DNF is responsible for significant emotional and physical suffering, as well as decreased productivityand financial losses, which impair quality of life [15]. According to a number of authors, it costs approximately \$17,500 (\$1998) to heal a single ulcer. In cases where amputation of the lower extremities is required, medical care is even more expensive and amounts to 30,000–33,500 US dollars [16].

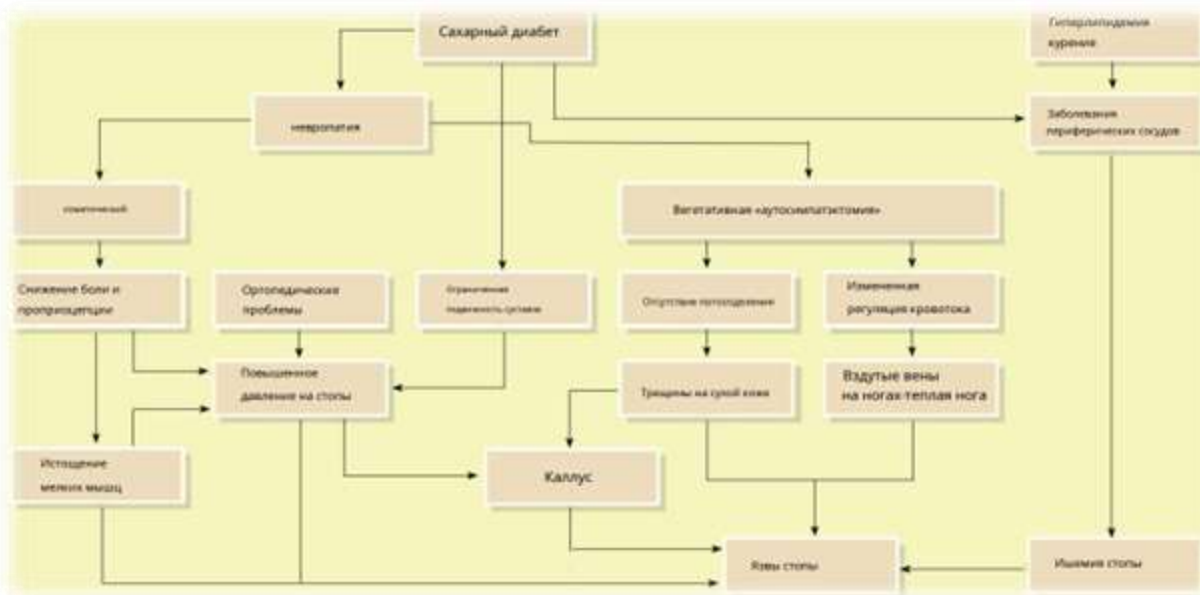
### ETIALOGY OF DYS

Recent studies have identified multiple risk factors associated with the development of DYS [18-21]. These risk factors are as follows: sex (male), duration of diabetes mellitus more than 10 years, elderly age of patients, high body mass index and other concomitant diseases such as retinopathy, diabetic peripheral neovopathy, peripheral vascular disease, level of glyated hemoglobin (HbA1C), foot deformity, high plantar pressure, infections and improper foot care [1,12, 20-22] (Fig. 1)



**Figure 1. Risk factors for diabetic foot ulcers. Ulcers can be distinguished by general or systemic signs from those localized on the foot and its pathology. (Data adapted from Frykberg et al [18]).**

Although the literature identifies a number of risk factors associated with diabetes that contribute to ulceration of the lower extremities and amputations, to date, most of the JAS have been caused by ischemic, neuropathic, or combined neuroischemic abnormalities [6,17] (Fig. 2). The number of ischemic x ulcers is likely to be only 10% of JAS and 90% are caused by non-ischemic ulcers neuropathy, alone or with ischemia. In recent years, the frequency of neuroischemic problems has increased, and neuroischemic ulcers are the most common ulcers currently seen in most diabetic foot clinics.



**Figure 2. Etiology of diabetic foot ulcer. (Data adapted from Boulton et al [17]).**

In general, the most frequent way of developing foot problems in patients with diabetes mellitus is peripheral sensorimotor and autonomic neuropathy, which leads to increased pressure on the feet, foot deformities and gait instability, which increases the risk of developing ulcers [24-26]. As of today, numerous studies have shown that increased plantar pressure is associated with ulceration of the foot [27-29]. Data on the prevalence of neuropathy among individuals with diabetes range from 28 to 65%, depending on the duration of the disease and diagnostic methods [78]. In addition, it has been demonstrated that foot deformities and gait instability increase plantar pressure, which can lead to ulceration of the foot [24,30].

**CARE AND CONTROL OF DYAS**

Unfortunately, often patients deny their disease and cannot take responsibility for their disease, as well as take the necessary measures to prevent complications and solve many problems associated with the treatment of DYAS. However, numerous studies have shown that proper treatment of DYAS can significantly reduce, delay or prevent complications such as amputation, gangrene, death [6,31,32]. Since diabetes is a multi-organ systemic process, all comorbidities affecting wound healing should be monitored by an interdisciplinary team to achieve optimal treatment outcomes. DYAS [35-38]. In accordance with health care strategies, clinical treatment of dYAS should be carried out immediately by an interdisciplinary team consisting of a general practitioner, nurse, orthopedist, as well as consultations with other specialists, such as vascular surgeons, infectious disease specialists, dermatologists, endocrinologists,

nutritionists [39]. Today, numerous studies have shown that a multidisciplinary team can reduce the frequency amputations, reduce costs and improve the quality of life of patients with DYAS [39-41].

The American Diabetes Association has concluded that a preventive care team, defined as an interdisciplinary team, can reduce the risks associated with DYS and amputation by 50–85% [42]. DYAS to consistently reduce the severity of complications, improve overall quality and increase the life expectancy of patients [36]. In this article, we review the available evidence on the treatment of DYAS as follows: training, blood sugar control, wound debridement, dressings with modern medicines, including the need for self-examination, foot temperature control, proper daily foot hygiene, the use of comfortable and suitable shoes and blood sugar control[47].

### **Teaching**

Up to 50% of cases of DNF have been shown to be preventable through effective training. In fact, educating patients on self-help for foot lesions is considered a cornerstone of preventing DYS [12,43-45].

Controlling blood sugar levels in patients with DYAS is essential in the self-help process. Blood glucose is the most important metabolic factor. In fact, inadequate blood sugar control is the main cause of DYAS [6,49,50]. The best indicator of glucose monitoring for a period of time is HbA1C. This test measures the average sugar concentration over a 90-day period in an erythrocyte peripheral. The higher the level of HbA1C, the more glycosylation of hemoglobin in erythrocytes will occur. Studies have shown that blood glucose levels > 11.1 mmol / l (equivalent > 310 mg / ml or HbA1C level > 12) is associated with a decrease in neutrophil function, including leukocyte chemotaxis [50]. Indeed, a greater increase in blood glucose levels was associated with a higher potential for suppression of inflammatory reactions and a decrease in response host for infection [6]. Pomposelli et al [51] indicated that a single blood glucose level of > 220 mg/dL on the first postoperative day was a sensitive (87.5%) predictor of postoperative infection. In addition, the authors found that patients with blood glucose levels of > 220 mg/dL had 2.7 times higher infection rates than those with lower blood glucose levels (31.3% vs. 11.5%, respectively) [51]. In addition, indicates that an average 1% reduction in HbA1C was associated with a 25% reduction in microvascular complications, including non-occupational disease [47]. Studies have shown that poor glucose control accelerates the manifestation of peripheral artery disease (PAD). It has been shown that for every 1% increase in I HbA1C levels, the relative risk increased by 25-28% is the main cause of DYAS [52].

### **Surgical intervention**

Surgical wound treatment is the removal of necrotic and non-viable tissues, as well as foreign and infected materials from the wound, which is considered the first and most important surgical step leading to the closure of the wound and the reduction of the risk of limb amputation in patients with DYAS [53-56]. The use of CO<sub>2</sub> laser allows you to perform woundin yu and bloodless neectomy, improve wound repair, and also reduces the microbial contaminationof a purulent wound. CO<sub>2</sub> laser has photocoagulant properties and sterilizing effect on tissues [79].

Sanitation appears to reduce the number of bacteria and stimulate the production of local growth factors. This method also reduces pressure,cleanses the wound bed and facilitates wound drainage [32,57]. There are various types of debridement, including surgical, enzymatic, autolytic, mechanical and biological [58]. Among these methods, the greatest effectiveness of surgical sanatsiand and that it is more effective in healing DYA [54,59-62]. Surgical or acute debridement involves excision of dead and infected tissues followed by daily application of a cotton napkin moistened with an antiseptic solution [53]. The main purpose of this type of debridement is to turn a chronic ulcer into an acute one. Surgical treatment should be repeated as often as necessary if new necrotic tissue continues to form [63]. It has beenreported that regular (weekly) acute wound treatment is associated with faster healing of ulcers than less frequent treatment [59,64-66]. The method of sanitation depends on the characteristics, preferences and level of knowledge of the practitioner [54]. When surgical or acute debridement is not indicated, other types of debridement can be used. Despite the advantages of sanitation, adequate sanitation should always precede the use of local healing agents [54]. When surgical or acute debridement is not indicated, other types of debridement can be used. Despite the advantages of sanitation, adequate sanitation should always precede the use of local healing agents [54]. When surgical or acute debridement is not indicated. Despite the benefits of sanitation, adequate sanitation should always precede the use of local healing agents wounds, dressings, or wound closure procedures that can be costly.

### **Methodsof loadingand**

The use of unloading techniques, commonly known as pressure modulation, is considered the most important component of the treatmentofnon-ropathic ulcers in patients with diabetes [81,82]. Recent studies have provided evidence that proper discharge promotes the healing of DYS [83-85]. Although many unloading techniques are currently used, only a few studies describe the frequency and rate of wound healing using some of the techniques often used in clinical practice. The choice of these methods is determined by the physical characteristics of the patient and his ability to comply with the treatment regimen, as well as the localization and severity of the ulcer [42]. The most effective method of unloading for the treatment of neuropathic DYAS is total contact dressing (TCP) [42,4 6,51]. The TCP has minimal padding and exactly repeats the shape of the foot with a heel for walking (Fig. 3). The dressing is designed to relieve pressure from the ulcer and distribute pressure over the entire surface of the foot, thus protecting the wound site.

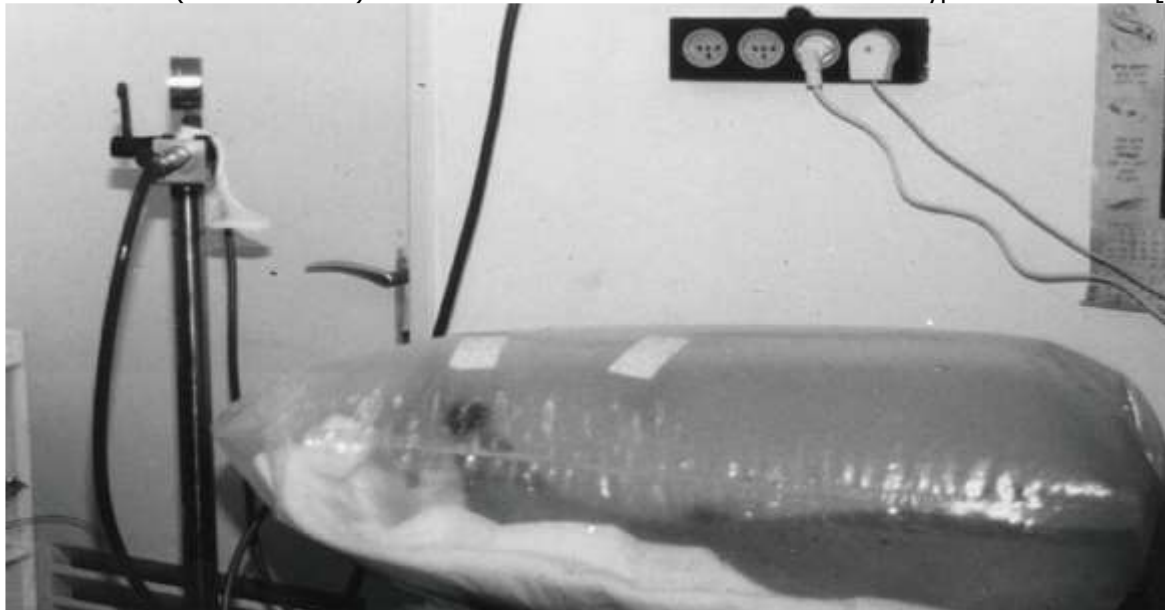




pressure [52]. Recently, vascular foot surgeries have been developed, such as femoral artery bypass grafting to the pedal arteries and peripheral angioplasty to improve blood flow in the ischemic foot [60].

### **Modern therapy**

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy - ganderbaric oxygenation (HBO) has shown promise in treating severe cases of non-healing DYAS resistant to other therapeutic methods [55-57]. HBOT involves intermittent pumping of 100% oxygen, usually in daily sessions [57]. During each session, patients breathed pure oxygen at 1.4–3.0 abs. atmosphere for 3 periods of 30 minutes (90 min in total) with intercalation at 5-minute intervals in the hyperbaric chamber [34, 44].



**Figure 5. Polyethylene hyperbaric chamber. Oxygen in a concentration of 100% was pumped into the bag through the usual valve of the car's wheel. The open end of the bag was fixed with an elastic bandage to the leg above the knee. Oxygen was passed through the bandage, and the pressure in the chamber was maintained at 20-30 mm Hg. art. (1.02–1.03 atm) above atmospheric pressure. (Data adapted from Landau [57]).**

To date, numerous studies have reported positive effects of HBOT [56]. The exact mechanism of HBOT remains poorly understood. Some studies have reported that HBOT reduces wound tissue hypoxia, increases perfusion, reduces swelling, reduces inflammatory cytokine levels, and promotes fibroblast proliferation, collagen production, and angiogenesis [5 7]. In addition, HBOT has been demonstrated to stimulate the mobilization of vasculogenic stem cells from the bone marrow and recruit them into a skin wound [54]. Despite reports of an increase in the frequency of healing and a decrease in the number of amputations with the use of HBOT, the adjuvant use of this method in DNS remains a controversial issue.

### **Electrical stimulation**

Electrical stimulation (ES) has been described in the recent literature as an ideal complementary therapy for the healing of DYS. Currently, there is a significant amount of work confirming the effectiveness of ES for the healing of nuclear power plants [63-66]. ES does not replace antibiotic therapy. In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 12-week study conducted by Peters et al [63] on 40 patients with DYAS, significant differences were found in the number of healed ulcers (65% in the treatment group versus 35% in the control group). Based on a literature review, it is assumed that ES may have smaller common deficiencies that have been associated with improper wound healing in DYAS, such as poor blood flow, infection, and insufficient cellular response [63,67]. This therapy is a safe, inexpensive, and simple intervention to improve wound healing in patients with DYAS [67,68].

### **Bioengineered skin**

Bioengineering leather (ВИК) has been used in recent decades as a new therapeutic treatment for DYAS [71]. This method replaces the degraded and destructive environment of the extracellular matrix with the introduction of a new matrix of the main substance with cellular components to begin a new healing trajectory. [72]. Three types of B products are currently available for nuclear nuclear powerИК, одобренных в США, включая Derma graft (Advanced Bio Healing Inc., Ла-Хойя, Калифорния), Apligraf (Organogenesis Inc., Кантон, Массачусетс) и, совсем недавно, Oasis (Cook Biotech, West Lafayette, IN) [74,75]; numerous studies have shown their effectiveness in the healing of DYS. Despite the advantages of ВИК, they cannot be used in isolation to treat DYAS. Peripheral ischemia, which is one of the pathological characteristics of DYAS, is a critical factor affecting transplantation ВИК In addition, this method requires infection control [7]1,75]. Thus, the above points may lead to high long-term costs and raise serious concerns about the use of this treatment [76].

### **Inthe lead**

Foot ulcers in patients with diabetes occur and often lead to amputation of the lower extremities if an operative, rational interdisciplinary approach to therapy is not adopted.

The main components of treatment that can ensure successful and rapid healing of DYAS include training, blood sugar control, wound debridement, extended dressing, unloading, surgery, and advanced treatments that are used in clinical practice. These approaches should be used whenever possible to reduce the high incidence and risk of serious complications resulting from foot ulcers.

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