



INCIDENCE AND RISK FACTORS FOR LOWER LIMB AMPUTATION AMONG PATIENTS IN THE SURGICAL SECTION, NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF SRI LANKA, COLOMBO

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The amputation of a limb or part of a limb has psychological, social and economic influences on patients' lives as well as on their families. Thus, it is important to identify the incidence and risk factors which lead to lower limb amputation (LLA). Therefore, the present study aimed to investigate the incidence and risk factors for LLA among patients in the surgical section, the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL), Colombo. This was a descriptive longitudinal study conducted among patients with LLA during the period of February to July 2017. A sample of 100 patients with LLA was recruited for the study using a convenience sampling technique. Data were collected using a content validated, pre-tested, self-administered, questionnaire. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the NHSL, Colombo and all the patients signed informed consent forms prior to their participation. Data were analysed by descriptive statistics and Pearson's Chi-square test on SPSS version 21.

The LLAs were more common among males (74%), between 40-60 years of age (57%), married (83%), and those with toe amputations (48.42%). Higher proportions of LLA were seen among people with monthly income more than Rs. 20,000 per month. Sixty to eighty percent of patients had diabetes mellitus. Risk factors for LLA based on toe amputations were found to be diabetes mellitus ($p=0.001$), peripheral vascular disease ($p=0.010$) and retinopathy ($p=0.034$), and a history of amputation ($p=0.001$). However, there was no association between the presence of toe amputation and patients' gender, BMI, educational level, employment, income, civil status, smoking, and presence of complications including hypertension and neuropathy ($p>0.05$). Since the main reasons for LLA were connected with diabetes mellitus and its complications, careful management in controlling the disease and follow-up care would be beneficial in the prevention of LLA.

Keywords: Lower limb amputation, Toe amputation, Diabetes mellitus

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