

ABSTRACT

Background and Objective

Diabetic foot ulcer is one of the common cause of patients getting admitted in hospitals. It accounts for major morbidity and increased mortality. It affects quality of life. Foot ulcers are preventable and adopting simple strategies can reduce ulcers ending up in amputation. Ulcers lead to amputation in about 85% of cases. Amputation leads to physical, economical and psychological constraints. Objective of this study is to predict the outcome in patients with diabetic foot ulcer using DUSS scoring system. Diabetic Ulcer Severity Scoring System is designed by Beckert et al. Application of this scoring system has not been studied in Indian patients. As this scoring system can predict amputation rates it will be a very useful tool for decision making in patients requiring amputations.

Materials and methods

150 diabetic patients with diabetic foot ulcer attending surgical outpatient clinic or admitted in Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital will be studied prospectively during September 2014 to September 2015. Detailed history, clinical examination, laboratory findings were collected from the patients. Four components of the score namely ulcer site, number of ulcer, presence or

absence of peripheral arterial pulse, probing to bone are evaluated. Scores are assigned for each variable ranging from score 0 to score 4.

Results

Incidence of amputation increases with rising score. Majority of foot ulcers among study population with DUSS score 0, 1 and 2 healed by primary intention. However among those with scores 3 and score 4 majority required amputation. As the score increases, so do the incidence of amputation among diabetic foot ulcer patients. Difference in the DUSS score among the groups was found to be statistically significant ($P < 0.001$)

Conclusion

Diabetic Ulcer Severity Score of 3 or 4 is significantly associated with amputations, Higher the score, lower the chance of healing and higher the incidence of amputation

Key words: Diabetic foot ulcer, Amputation, DUSS scoring system, Diabetic Ulcer Severity Score