

The Opportunity for Impactful Integration of Vascular and Podiatric Care, Kim, Y. et. al. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 2023;12(19):6237.

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Level of Evidence: 4

Reviewer:

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This case study explores the collaborative relationship between vascular surgeons and podiatrists in providing podiatric care within a vascular surgery division. Over five years, from January 2018 to December 2022, vascular surgeons performed a total of 12,206 operations, of which 1102 (9.9%) involved podiatric procedures. The most common vascular-performed podiatry procedures performed were toe amputations (38.1%, n = 420), transmetatarsal foot amputations (20.1%, n = 222), and finally ankle/foot debridement (16.2%, n = 178). These procedures resulted in many accumulated procedure-related work relative value units (wRVUs), indicating the potential benefits of integrating podiatric surgeons within a vascular surgical division. In fact, previous studies have shown that podiatrists can contribute up to 40% of the total wRVU to a limb salvage program.

Patient demographic data was not collected in this study; instead, the focus was on procedural details such as case types (elective, urgent, emergent) and specific Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes related to podiatric procedures. The findings underscore vascular surgeon's role in delivering podiatric services, however, they may find themselves shouldering a multifaceted role that encompasses an array of podiatric tasks, including consultations, surgical interventions, postoperative care, and long-term follow-up that could instead be given to a podiatric partner.

The study also highlights the opportunities for collaboration and the potential advantages of incorporating podiatric care within a vascular surgery setting, notably in enhancing patient outcomes. By showcasing the positive impact of such integration, the study advocates for a comprehensive approach to patient care that utilizes the expertise of both vascular surgeons and podiatrists to provide effective and holistic treatment strategies.

"Toe and Flow"!



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