

# Perception of Prevalence of Peripheral Arterial Disease by Medical Personnel in Nepal

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## INTRODUCTION

- Prevalence of peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in Nepal is unknown
- Prevalence in India is 26.7% in a study in the city of northern Kerala<sup>1</sup>
- PAD is a condition involving blockage of arteries, excluding the brain and heart<sup>2</sup>
- PAD puts patients at increased risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, and amputation<sup>2</sup>
- The lack of diagnosing of PAD in Nepal may be due to inadequate training of medical personnel in the diagnosis of PAD

## HYPOTHESIS

- PAD is underdiagnosed in Nepal because of a gap in teaching about it in the medical curriculum and lack of exposure in the clinical setting

## STUDY AIMS

- Survey Nepalese medical trainees on the perception of PAD among people in Nepal
- Compare and contrast trainees' level of comfort and familiarity with PAD diagnosis based on amount of lecture received

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## METHODS

- This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at both Kathmandu University and the Medical College of Wisconsin
- 12 question survey was emailed from June 27 – July 27, 2020
- Respondents included medical students, nursing students, intern doctors, paramedics, bachelor of dentistry students, and physiotherapy students
- Students ranked their perception on PAD in Nepal
- Students ranked their understanding of PAD through lecture or clinical exposure
- Data analysis was done with SPSS 18.0 frequency and crosstabs analysis with chi-squared test for significance

## RESULTS

The survey completion rate was 44%

	Number of Students who can Diagnose PAD / Order Modalities for Work-Up based on Different Learning Tiers		
	Lecture Only	Care of Patient Only	Lecture and Care
Ability to Adequately Diagnose PAD	13/77 (16.9%)	0/4 (0%)	12/28 (42.9%)
Comfort with Ordering Modalities of Work-Up	13/77 (16.7%)	1/4 (25%)	30/39 (76.9%)
Ability to Diagnose and Order Modalities of Work-Up	10/90 (11.1%)	0/4 (0%)	10/40 (25%)

**Table 1.** This table shows the difference in how comfortable medical personnel are with both the diagnosing modalities and work up for PAD and feeling adequate to diagnose PAD based on if they received lecture, cared for a patient, or both.

## DISCUSSION

- 67% of medical trainees did not feel adequate in diagnosing PAD even though they received a lecture
- 93% of intern doctors were familiar with the diagnosing modalities and 47% felt able to diagnose PAD, indicating they are learning this at some point in their education or career
- Those who had both a lecture and cared for a PAD patient had the best understanding of both modalities and diagnosis

## CONCLUSION

- The manner that PAD is taught needs to be improved in order to improve diagnosis and treatment of Nepali patients
- Incorporation of exposing medical trainees to patients with PAD at the time of lecture may demonstrate needed evaluations and benefit population health

## NEXT STEPS

- New lecture techniques will be developed, implemented, and evaluated at Kathmandu University Medical School
- Redistribution of the survey will be completed after new curricular components are added

## REFERENCES

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