

Major Lower Limb Amputation: Causes, Characteristics and Complications

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Background: The incidence rates of major amputations vary greatly between different countries. Amputation carries a significant psychological and socioeconomic burden on the individual and the community. Despite that, major lower limb amputation is a relatively frequent procedure in our center. To date, there has been no study published to identify the major cause of amputation and the personal characteristics of the patients.

Objective: To identify the causes, patient characteristics and complications of major lower limb amputation.

Design: A Prospective Study.

Setting: Vascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit, Department of Surgery, Salmaniya Medical Complex, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Method: All patients who underwent major amputation of the lower limb/s from 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2016 were included in the study.

Result: Forty-five patients were included in this study. Forty-seven major lower limb amputations were performed during the study period. Forty-one (91.1%) patients were Bahrainis. Twenty-nine (64.4%) patients were males and the median age was 66 years. Thirty (66.7%) patients had no university education. Thirty-eight (84.4%) patients underwent amputations due to diabetes mellitus (DM) and its related complications. Seventeen (37.8%) patients had postoperative complications. Surgical site wound infection (SSI) was the most common postoperative complication, 8 (17.8 %) patients. The overall 30-day mortality was 10.6%.

Conclusion: Diabetes mellitus and its related complications is the main cause for major lower limb amputation in our study.