Preventing foot complications in patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

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Project Description:
One of the most common complications of diabetes involves the lower limb, including foot ulceration, infection, gangrene and lower extremity amputation. These complications are some of the most common indications for hospitalisations among patients with diabetes, and associated with poor survival and high economic burden.

Annual comprehensive examination of the foot is recommended as the standard of care to identify individuals with higher risk of foot complications early, and to reduce the risk of such events. While there is evidence that such foot examination and related follow up interventions can substantially reduce the burden of lower limb complications, there is no consensus on the specific components and the modalities used for assessment. There is also lack of standardization in how patients are classified into different risk states, with limited evidence on how well these states predict actual risk of future events.

This study will examine the role of the foot examination, and its individual components in accurately identifying those at higher risk of serious foot complications, to identify the most parsimonious set of components to be included, as well as the optimum frequency of examination for patients in different risk categories.

Remarks:
For PhD students only