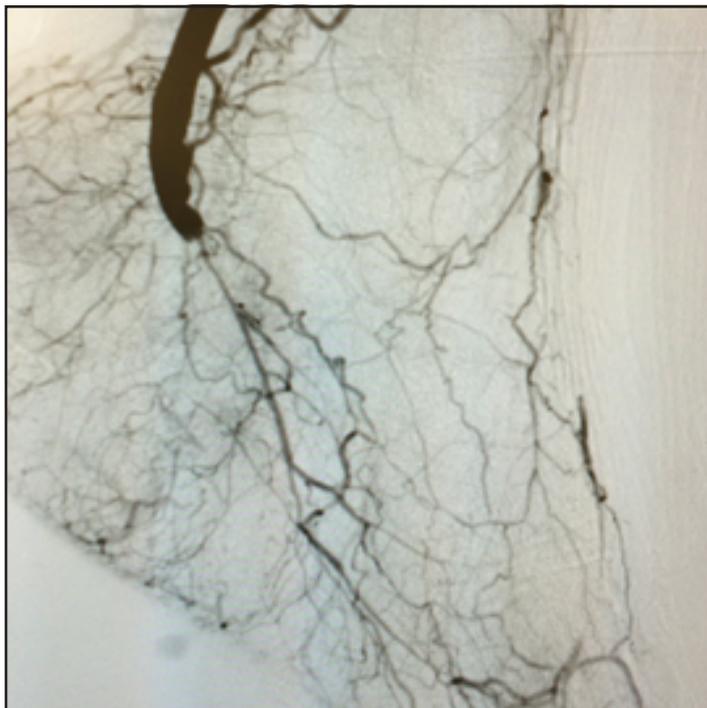


A Referral Guide for Your Patients with **Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia (CLTI)**



Condition

The incidence of peripheral artery disease (PAD) has increased over the years due to population aging and the global epidemic of diabetes. Some patients progress to chronic limb-threatening ischemia, an advanced stage of PAD. Chronic limb-threatening ischemia (CLTI) is associated with increased mortality, risk of amputation, and impaired quality of life. CLTI is a clinical syndrome defined by the presence of PAD in combination with rest pain, gangrene, or a lower limb ulceration >2 weeks duration.

The recent Global Vascular Guidelines (GVG) have focused on defining, evaluating, and managing CLTI with the goals of improving evidence-based care, patient outcomes and identifying critical research needs.

Vascular surgeons are your partners in caring for your patients with CLTI with a shared goal to improve limb salvage, survival and maximize quality of life.

When to Refer

All patients with suspected CLTI should be referred urgently to a vascular surgeon for limb salvage efforts. All patients with rest pain, non-healing foot ulcers/wounds, or gangrene should have vascular testing to assess blood supply and potential for healing.

Why Refer to a Vascular Surgeon

Vascular surgeons are experts in selecting and interpreting appropriate hemodynamic tests and imaging studies for the diagnosis and management of CLTI. They will also collaborate with you to optimize your patient's cardiovascular health, including managing their risk factors and reinforcing the importance of smoking cessation.

Vascular surgery is the only discipline among the American Board of Medical Specialties which has specific training requirements to study the natural history and medical treatments of CLTI. Vascular surgeons are the only specialists who can perform all therapies (medical, minimally invasive, endovascular, and open surgeries) for CLTI. A vascular surgeon can be your partner to help you and your patients get the most comprehensive management of their vascular disorder as well as the treatment that is best for them. Early referral and collaboration with a vascular surgeon can lead to better outcomes for each patient.

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