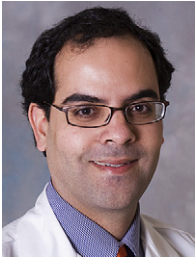


Preface



Kevin N. Hakimi, MD
Guest Editor

The number of patients with cardiovascular diseases, such as coronary heart disease and peripheral vascular diseases, and related conditions such as diabetes mellitus continues to increase in the United States. All these patients have diseases that cause ischemia and macro- and/or microvascular abnormalities, and thus they can all be grouped under the category of dysvascular diseases. All rehabilitation providers will encounter these patients in their practices regardless of their rehabilitation specialty, and they must have the tools to ensure that, after appropriate diagnosis, function is maximized through appropriate treatment and rehabilitation.

The relationship between diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, and lower-extremity amputation is well known. The rehabilitation provider may encounter these dysvascular patients initially during electrodiagnostic evaluations for peripheral neuropathy. The rehabilitation specialist should play a role in prevention of amputation as well as preoperative, postoperative, and prosthetic management. Patients with coronary heart disease and claudication secondary to peripheral vascular disease can benefit from structured exercise programs that are historically underused in the United States. Additionally, specific rehabilitation populations, such as those with spinal cord injury, may have unique presentations and require different treatment approaches.

This issue of *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America* is devoted to the patient with dysvascular disease. It covers several broad but interwoven topics, including diabetic foot ulcers, amputation, electrodiagnostics, peripheral vascular disease, cardiac rehabilitation, and pain.

I would like to acknowledge Dr Kraft for his mentorship during my residency and as a junior faculty member. I would also like to thank Dr Czerniecki, an expert in amputee care, who helped me formulate many of the concepts related to the dysvascular

patient. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge all the writers who contributed to this important issue.

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