

Patients with PAD are at increased risk of amputation due to inadequate blood flow, mainly to the lower extremities. Delayed, inadequate wound healing or critical limb ischemia are the main conditions resulting in amputation. This risk is increased in patients with diabetes and neuropathy.

Consideration

Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI)

[Ankle and Brachial Index-card](#)

The ABI is used as a screening tool for peripheral artery disease and can be performed at the bedside with a hand-held Doppler. The value is calculated by dividing the systolic blood pressures in the ankles by the higher of the two systolic values gathered from the brachial pressures taken in the arms. The patient must be in a supine position when taking ankle blood pressures to prevent a falsely high ABI value. An ABI value of 0.90 or less is abnormal and is indicative of mild PAD.