Standardized Screening for Peripheral Artery Disease in the Primary Setting

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Abstract

Problem: Peripheral artery disease (PAD) affects eight million Americans and is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. in people 60-85 years of age. Left untreated, PAD can progress to hospitalization for revascularization, amputation, or death. The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends using a standardized screening tool for the diagnosis of PAD. The lack of referrals for adults with history of PAD requires a standardized screening tool for proper intervention.

Methods: This quality improvement (QI) project utilized a descriptive, observational design. The American Heart Association (AHA) screening tool was administered to a convenience sample of adult patients aged 50-85 years old in the primary care setting. Quantitative data was collected during the face to face clinic visits. Data collected during the time of this (QI) project included the number of screenings administered, number of ABI test ordered and the number of referrals to vascular specialty generated.

Results: Following implementation of this QI effort, retrospective chart review was performed focusing on the three-month period before the tool was implemented, then after implementation. Data found in patients screened with the new tool that the mean age was 66.48, with the average risk factor 2.02 and symptoms the average number of symptoms 1.35. Six ABI tests were ordered with one referral.

Implications for Practice: The implementation of the screening tool in the primary care settings could standardized the assessment and referral process recommended by American Heart Association.

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