



INAHTA Briefs

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Issue:	What are the most powerful predictors of outcome associated with rehabilitative care in adult patients with recent major lower limb amputation?
Title:	A Systematic Review of Clinical Predictors of Outcomes in Adults with Recent Lower Limb Amputation
Agency:	VA Technology Assessment Program (11 T), Office of Patient Care Services, Room D4-142, 150 S. Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130; Tel: 857-364-4469 Fax: 857-364-6587
Reference:	VA Technology Assessment Program Short Report, February, 2005. www.va.gov/vatap
Aim:	To identify clinical predictors of outcomes in adult patients with major lower limb amputation that may help direct health care resources toward individuals who are most likely to benefit from specific rehabilitative interventions of care.
Conclusions and results:	Predictors of poor outcome were advancing age, poor compliance, phantom limb pain and co-morbid conditions. Predictors of positive outcome included the patient's general condition, pre-amputation functional capability, the patient's socioeconomic situation, the amputation level and covering of the stump, and the absence of stump pain. These predictors need to be confirmed and assessed in VA patients in order to determine the most suitable outcomes to use for veterans with major lower limb amputation.
Recommendations:	Promising predictors of outcomes were identified for further study. Additional research is needed to confirm these predictors and determine which predictors are most useful in clinical practice.
Methods:	A qualitative systematic review was undertaken. Comprehensive searches of MEDLINE [®] , EMBASE [®] , Current Contents [®] , Science Citation Index [®] on Dialog [®] and the Cochrane Library from 1990 to February 2004 were conducted. Bibliographic search strategy included terms for lower limb/extremity amputation and combined them with terms for rehabilitation, prognosis, recovery of function, quality of life, activities of daily living, treatment outcome and analytic methods. These searches resulted in 581 references of which 128 were identified as potentially relevant. Seven studies met inclusion criteria for clearly described original research published in English that used multivariable analysis to derive predictive factors in adult patients with lower extremity amputation.
Further research/reviews required:	Additional longitudinal studies are needed to derive a comprehensive set of clinical predictors suitable for the veteran population. These predictors will be used to improve the quality of rehabilitation care for lower limb amputees.
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