

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript *J Vasc Surg*. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2018 June 01.

Published in final edited form as:

J Vasc Surg. 2017 June ; 65(6): 1753–1761. doi:10.1016/j.jvs.2016.11.031.

Mining Peripheral Arterial Disease Cases from Narrative Clinical Notes Using Natural Language Processing

Naveed Afzal, Ph.D.^a, Sunghwan Sohn, Ph.D.^a, Sara Abram, M.D.^b, Christopher G. Scott, M.S.^a, Rajeev Chaudhry, M.B.B.S., MPH^c, Hongfang Liu, Ph.D.^a, Iftikhar J. Kullo, M.D.^b, and Adelaide M. Arruda-Olson, M.D., Ph.D.^b

^aDepartment of Health Sciences Research, Knowledge Delivery Center and Center for Innovation, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

^bDepartment of Cardiovascular Diseases, Knowledge Delivery Center and Center for Innovation, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

^cDivision of Primary Care Medicine, Knowledge Delivery Center and Center for Innovation, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

Abstract

Objective—Lower extremity peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is highly prevalent and affects millions of individuals worldwide. We developed a natural language processing (NLP) system for automated ascertainment of PAD cases from clinical narrative notes and compared the performance of the NLP algorithm to billing code algorithms, using ankle-brachial index (ABI) test results as the gold standard.

Methods—We compared the performance of the NLP algorithm to 1) results of gold standard ABI; 2) previously validated algorithms based on relevant ICD-9 diagnostic codes (simple model) and 3) a combination of ICD-9 codes with procedural codes (full model). A dataset of 1,569 PAD patients and controls was randomly divided into training (n= 935) and testing (n= 634) subsets.

Results—We iteratively refined the NLP algorithm in the training set including narrative note sections, note types and service types, to maximize its accuracy. In the testing dataset, when compared with both simple and full models, the NLP algorithm had better accuracy (NLP: 91.8%, full model: 81.8%, simple model: 83%, P<.001), PPV (NLP: 92.9%, full model: 74.3%, simple model: 79.9%, P<.001), and specificity (NLP: 92.5%, full model: 64.2%, simple model: 75.9%, P<.001).

Conclusions—A knowledge-driven NLP algorithm for automatic ascertainment of PAD cases from clinical notes had greater accuracy than billing code algorithms. Our findings highlight the

DISCLOSURES None.

Correspondence to Adelaide M. Arruda-Olson, M.D., Ph.D.; Cardiovascular Diseases; Mayo Clinic; 200 First Street SW; Rochester, MN 55905. Fax number: 507-266-9142 Telephone number: (507) 284-2541. olson.adelaide@mayo.edu.

Publisher's Disclaimer: This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

potential of NLP tools for rapid and efficient ascertainment of PAD cases from electronic health records to facilitate clinical investigation and eventually improve care by clinical decision support.

INTRODUCTION

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a chronic disease associated with high morbidity and mortality.^{1–3} PAD affects at least 8.5 million people in the United States and in excess of 200 million people worldwide.⁴ PAD is associated with increased risk for death, myocardial infarction and stroke with annual risk for adverse cardiovascular events exceeding 5%.^{1–3,5–7} Despite high prevalence and associated mortality, morbidity and cost PAD has received relatively little attention from clinical researchers, health systems and government agencies.^{2,8,9} The diagnosis of PAD is based on abnormal ankle-brachial index (ABI). However, not all PAD cases have ABI results available in their electronic health records (EHR). In the absence of ABI results, time-consuming and laborious manual abstraction of narrative clinical notes is needed to ascertain PAD status.

Previously, we used billing code algorithms composed of PAD-related ICD-9 codes (simple model) or a combination of PAD-related ICD-9 codes with procedural codes (full model) to identify patients with PAD.¹⁰ When applied to a community-based sample, these billing algorithms had limited performance.¹⁰ In another prior study, we successfully developed and applied a natural language processing (NLP) algorithm to ascertain PAD status from radiology reports; however, radiology reports describe the results of radiology tests, and do not contain the key components of the clinical notes such as impression, report and plan of care.¹¹ To address these shortcomings we tested the hypothesis that NLP of narrative clinical notes would improve accuracy of PAD ascertainment over billing code algorithms using ABI test results as the gold standard. In this study, we develop a NLP algorithm for automated ascertainment of PAD cases from clinical narrative notes and compare the performance of the NLP algorithm to billing code algorithms and gold standard ankle-brachial index (ABI) test results.

METHODS

Study Setting and Population

The study was conducted at Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota and used the resources of the Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP) to assemble a community- based PAD case-control cohort from Olmsted County.¹² The REP consists of Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Clinic Hospitals, Olmsted Medical Center and its affiliated hospitals. The REP is an integrated health information system that links medical records of all Olmsted County residents regardless of their ethnicity, socio-economic or insurance status.¹² In the present study, we applied this NLP algorithm to the Mayo clinical data warehouse. For this study, we obtained patient informed consent and this study was approved by the institutional review boards of participating medical centers.

Gold Standard

All patients from both datasets had undergone ABI testing in the Mayo noninvasive vascular laboratory using standardized protocols.⁴ The ABI results were reported in PDF format and

were not part of the narrative clinical notes. In brief, the systolic blood pressure was measured in each arm and dorsalis pedis and posterior tibial arteries bilaterally using a handheld 8.3-MHz Doppler probe. The higher of the 2 arm pressures and lower of the 2 ankle pressures were used to calculate the ABI for each leg.³ Normal ABI was defined as 1.0–1.3. PAD was defined as an ABI 0.9 at rest or 1 min after exercise; or by the presence of poorly compressible arteries (ABI 1.40 or ankle systolic blood pressure >255 mmHg).⁴ These criteria were used to classify all subjects into case or control categories.

Dataset

The dataset consisted of 1569 patients (806 cases and 763 controls) (Figure 1). We randomly divided this dataset into two subsets: training and testing. The training dataset consisted of 935 patients and 300,364 clinical notes; there were 479 PAD cases (abnormal ABI) and 456 controls (normal ABI). The testing dataset comprised 634 patients, 212,047 clinical notes and included 327 PAD cases and 307 controls.

Study Design

We retrieved all clinical notes of the subjects participating in this study from the Mayo data warehouse created through June 2015. We applied the NLP algorithm to these retrieved clinical notes to ascertain PAD status as an output for each patient (Figure 2). We developed and conducted iterative refinement of an NLP algorithm in the training dataset. For subsequent validation we applied the best version of the refined NLP algorithm to the testing dataset. For each dataset we compared the performance of NLP algorithm with each billing code algorithm (simple model, full model) and NLP algorithm with the gold standard. The simple model was composed of PAD-related ICD-9 codes while the full model was a combination of both PAD-related ICD-9 codes and procedural codes.¹⁰

NLP algorithm

The NLP algorithm was knowledge-driven and had two main components: text processing and patient classification (Figure 2). The text processing component found PAD-related concepts (the keywords listed in Table I) in the text using MedTagger, an open source clinical NLP pipeline that analyzed text and identified PAD-related medical concepts.¹³ The NLP algorithm extracted PAD-related concepts from clinical notes and mapped them to the specific categories. For example, NLP algorithm identified a concept 'lower extremity' from clinical notes and then mapped it to the category "Disease Location III" (Table I). The NLP algorithm also checked assertion status of each concept that included certainty (i.e. positive, negative and possible), temporality (historical or current) along with experiencer (i.e., associated with the patient or someone else). For example, if the NLP algorithm came across a sentence: "noninvasive studies are consistent with severe arterial occlusive disease of bilateral lower extremities", the system identifies the concepts "arterial occlusive disease" and "lower extremities" along with the corresponding assertion status -i.e., arterial occlusive disease is stated positively (certainty = positive), present (temporality = current), and associated with the patient (experiencer = patient). The patient classification component used a set of rules (described below) to classify the status of each individual.

Keywords were used to create comprehensive lists of appropriate concepts for ascertainment of PAD status. To identify the PAD-related keywords, a clinician comprehensively abstracted the narrative clinical notes of 20 PAD cases and 20 controls (without PAD). These notes were excluded for the next steps of NLP algorithm evaluation. Cardiovascular experts compiled the list of PAD-related concepts using clinical notes, which was expanded by addition of synonyms. The PAD-related concepts and the rules for patient classification were refined using an interactive process with analysis of false positives and false negatives in the training dataset. Figure 3 shows the PAD-related concept types and values of a sample clinical note. The right window shows the clinical note snippet that is processed by the NLP algorithm to populate annotations (PAD-related concepts were shown in yellow color in the right window) as they appear in the left window.

The following rules were used for PAD cases:

- One disease location keyword from Disease Location-I + one diagnostic keyword from First Diagnosis-I within two sentences anchored by a diagnostic keyword in the same note.
- One disease location keyword from Disease Location-II or Disease Location-III
 + one diagnostic keyword from First Diagnosis II within two sentences anchored by a diagnostic keyword in the same note.
- One disease location keyword from Disease Location-III + one diagnostic keyword from First Diagnosis-III in the same note.

For controls (without PAD), the system used the following rules:

- If not satisfied the PAD criteria described above OR
- One exclusion keyword from Exclusion-I + one diagnostic keyword from First Diagnosis-I.
- One exclusion keyword from Exclusion-I or Exclusion-II + one diagnostic keyword from Third Diagnosis.
- One exclusion keyword from Exclusion-III + one diagnostic keyword from Second Diagnosis.
- One exclusion keyword from Exclusion-IV.

For each case of PAD, the NLP algorithm also provided the note type and index date (i.e. the earliest date that satisfied PAD conditions) along with evidence in the form of +/-2 sentences anchored by a diagnostic keyword that led the system to classify a patient as a PAD case.

Statistical Analysis

Comparisons between algorithms were made using decision statistics calculated from 2×2 tables including positive predictive value (PPV), sensitivity, negative predictive value (NPV) and specificity compared with the gold standard ABI test results. These were calculated as follows: PPV = true positives/(true positives + false positives); sensitivity = true positives/ (true positives + false negatives); NPV = true negatives/(true negatives + false negatives) and

specificity = true negatives/(true negatives + false positives). Confidence intervals were estimated for each of these measures. Estimates of sensitivity, specificity, and overall accuracy between algorithms were compared using McNemar's test. Generalized score statistics were used to compare PPV and NPV. Analyses were performed in SAS version 9.4 (Cary, NC) and significance was set using a two-sided p-value of <.05.

RESULTS

Interactive refinement of the NLP algorithm - training dataset

We initially included all clinical notes from patient encounters in the outpatient and inpatient settings, from internal medicine and internal medicine subspecialties, as well as from general surgery and surgical specialties. The clinical notes consist of multiple pre-defined sections (e.g., history of present illness, past medical history and impression/report/plan). During the iterative refinement of our NLP algorithm we identified the note types, note sections and service groups that led to the most false results, these were excluded from subsequent experiments and are listed in Appendix I.

Using this stepwise approach for the interactive refinement of the NLP algorithm, there was improvement of specificity, PPV and accuracy of the system compared with the gold standard (Table II). Version E had the best performance and was subsequently applied to the testing dataset. The note types, note sections and service groups included in Version E are listed in Appendix II.

Comparison of NLP algorithm with billing code algorithms

Compared to billing code algorithms, the NLP algorithm had the highest accuracy in each of the datasets (Figure 4 and Table III).

In the training dataset, the NLP algorithm showed high sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV and accuracy. In the testing dataset, the NLP algorithm had better specificity, PPV, and accuracy when compared with both simple and full models (see Table III). However, the NLP algorithm had similar sensitivity and NPV to the simple model, whereas the full model had higher sensitivity and NPV than the NLP algorithm.

DISCUSSION

The use of ICD-9 billing codes to ascertain phenotypes may have less than optimal accuracy.^{14,15} We developed an NLP algorithm which was more accurate than billing code algorithms for identification of PAD cases from the EHR.¹⁰ We iteratively refined our NLP algorithm, in collaboration with clinician experts, and in a comprehensive stepwise interactive approach we identified the note sections, note types and service types that generated the highest numbers of false results compared with the gold standard ABI results. For example, we found that more false results were generated from the note section "chief complaint" while less false results were generated from the note section "impression/report/ plan". Importantly, in this section clinicians summarize the pertinent findings that support the plan of care, which is described in the same section.

Previously, the NLP algorithm was applied to the "chief complaint" section of patients who presented to an emergency department.¹⁶ The "chief complaint" indicated only the main reason for the evaluation, which may be ruled out during the visit (e.g., patient had a normal ABI and PAD was ruled-out). In contrast, our study included subjects evaluated in the inpatient or the outpatient settings but we excluded notes from emergency department (ED) visits. In our institution these notes from ED visits include combined narrative notes from multiple providers and in the present study the ED notes were a common reason for false results during the interactive refinement of our system. Others have applied NLP algorithms to hospital dismissal summaries, which summarize the hospital course.^{17–19} In contrast, we validated an NLP algorithm applied to each of the progress notes that occurred during the course of a hospitalization. In addition, we also validated our system applied to outpatient clinical notes. The note types with the best performance, which were used in the final system all referred to a medical encounter. Notes that did not describe a medical encounter (e.g. report of a phone conversation with a patient) were a reason for false results and were excluded from the final NLP algorithm.

Reasons for False Positives - best NLP algorithm

We analyzed reasons for false results when our NLP algorithm was applied to narrative clinical notes (Table IV). We demonstrated that a reason for false positives includes notes in which clinicians suspected PAD and ordered the ABI, however subsequent ABI results were normal and ruled out PAD. Another reason for false positives was the natural language complexity and ambiguity as the NLP algorithm was unable to recognize the correct experiencer of a disease (Table 4).

Reasons for False Negatives

The absence of location and/or diagnostic keywords within +/- two sentences window was a frequent reason for false negatives. Another reason for false negatives was the absence of comments in clinical notes regarding a recently conducted ABI test that showed abnormal results. However, this happened most often in cases when the patient developed acute health problem on the same day as the ABI report. The other reasons for false negatives were typographic errors.

Strengths and limitations

The present study has important strengths. First, the Mayo Clinic data warehouse archives comprehensive narrative clinical notes from both inpatient and outpatient encounters. Second, we had available to us the Mayo vascular laboratory dataset that archives all results/ reports of non-invasive lower extremity arterial testing performed in the Mayo accredited vascular laboratory. Third, the NLP algorithm is independent of billing codes. The NLP algorithm uses keywords (listed in Table I) and rules which are independent of EHR systems; hence the system can be implemented for any other EHR systems. Fourth, a collaborative effort of a multidisciplinary team of investigators including clinicians, computer scientists and biostatisticians was fundamental for the development of the NLP algorithm described herein. A limitation of this study is that data were retrieved from the data warehouse of a single academic medical center.

In future studies, we will apply and validate this NLP algorithm to identify PAD cases in other healthcare systems. Subsequently, we will deploy the refined NLP algorithm to Mayo Clinic EHR for automated identification of PAD cases at the point-of-care, with linkage to clinical decision support that will include reminders for risk modification strategies for PAD patients as follows: antiplatelet therapy, statins therapy, anti-hypertensive therapy as well as smoking cessation.

CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we described a knowledge-driven NLP algorithm that ascertains PAD cases from clinical notes with higher accuracy compared to billing code algorithms; this system will support big data clinical studies with potential for translation to patient care. The presence of such a system could enhance capabilities to conduct PAD research on a large scale with potential favorable impact on public health and eventually improve care by clinical decision support.

Acknowledgments

We thank Kent Bailey PhD, Bradley R. Lewis MS and Carin Smith for statistical analysis, Jared Robb for data collection, and Tamie Tiedemann for secretarial support.

FUNDING SOURCES

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (award K01HL124045) and the NHGRI eMERGE (Electronic Records and Genomics) Network grants HG04599 and HG006379. This study was made possible using the resources of the Rochester Epidemiology Project supported by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health (award R01AG034676) and the NLP framework established through the NIGMS award R01GM102283A1. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

REFERENCES

- Criqui MH, Denenberg JO, Langer RD, Fronek A. The epidemiology of peripheral arterial disease: importance of identifying the population at risk. Vascular Medicine. 1997; 2:221–226. [PubMed: 9546971]
- Hirsch AT, Criqui MH, Treat-Jacobson D, Regensteiner JG, Creager MA, Olin JW, et al. Peripheral arterial disease detection, awareness, and treatment in primary care. Jama. 2001; 286:1317–1324. [PubMed: 11560536]
- 3. Hirsch AT, Haskal ZJ, Hertzer NR, Bakal CW, Creager MA, Halperin JL, et al. ACC/AHA 2005 Guidelines for the Management of Patients With Peripheral Arterial Disease (Lower Extremity, Renal, Mesenteric, and Abdominal Aortic): A Collaborative Report from the American Association for Vascular Surgery/Society for Vascular Surgery,* Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology, Society of Interventional Radiology, and the ACC/AHA Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Writing Committee to Develop Guidelines for the Management of Patients With Peripheral Arterial Disease). J AM Coll Cardiol. 2006; 47:e1– e192. [PubMed: 16386656]
- 4. Kullo IJ, Rooke TW. Peripheral Artery Disease. N Engl J Med. 2016; 2016:861-871.
- 5. Murabito JM, D'Agostino RB, Silbershatz H, Wilson PW. Intermittent claudication a risk profile from the Framingham heart study. Circulation. 1997; 96:44–49. [PubMed: 9236415]
- Saw J, Bhatt DL, Moliterno DJ, Brener SJ, Steinhubl SR, Lincoff AM, et al. The influence of peripheral arterial disease on outcomes: a pooled analysis of mortality in eight large randomized percutaneous coronary intervention trials. J AM Coll Cardiol. 2006; 48:1567–1572. [PubMed: 17045889]

- 7. Olin JW, Allie DE, Belkin M, Bonow RO, Casey DE, Creager MA, et al. ACCF/AHA/ACR/ SCAI/SIR/SVM/SVN/SVS 2010 Performance Measures for Adults With Peripheral Artery Disease: A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Performance Measures, the American College of Radiology, the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions, the Society for Interventional Radiology, the Society for Vascular Medicine, the Society for Vascular Nursing, and the Society for Vascular Surgery (Writing Committee to Develop Clinical Performance Measures for Peripheral Artery Disease) Developed in Collaboration With the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation; the American Diabetes Association; the Society for Atherosclerosis Imaging and Prevention; the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance; the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography; and the PAD Coalition Endorsed by the American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management. J AM Coll Cardiol. 2010; 56:2147–2181. [PubMed: 21144980]
- Hirsch AT, Allison MA, Gomes AS, Corriere MA, Duval S, Ershow AG, et al. A call to action: women and peripheral artery disease a scientific statement from the American heart association. Circulation. 2012; 125:1449–1472. [PubMed: 22343782]
- 9. Hirsch AT. Treatment of Peripheral Arterial Disease-Extending" Intervention" to" Therapeutic Choice". N Engl J Med. 2006; 354:1944. [PubMed: 16672707]
- Fan J, Arruda-Olson AM, Leibson CL, Smith C, Liu G, Bailey KR, et al. Billing code algorithms to identify cases of peripheral artery disease from administrative data. J AM Med Inform Assoc. 2013; 20:e349–e354. [PubMed: 24166724]
- Savova, GK., Fan, J., Ye, Z., Murphy, SP., Zheng, J., Chute, CG., et al. Discovering peripheral arterial disease cases from radiology notes using natural language processing; AMIA Annu Symp Proc; 2010. p. 722-726.
- St Sauver JL, Grossardt BR, Yawn BP, Melton LJ, Pankratz JJ, Brue SM, et al. Data resource profile: the Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP) medical records-linkage system. Int J Epidemiol. 2012; 41:1614–1624. [PubMed: 23159830]
- Liu H, Bielinski SJ, Sohn S, Murphy S, Wagholikar KB, Jonnalagadda SR, et al. An Information Extraction Framework for Cohort Identification Using Electronic Health Records. AMIA Jt Summits Transl Sci Proc. 2013:149–153. [PubMed: 24303255]
- Birman-Deych E, Waterman AD, Yan Y, Nilasena DS, Radford MJ, Gage BF. Accuracy of ICD-9-CM codes for identifying cardiovascular and stroke risk factors. Med Care. 2005; 43:480–485. [PubMed: 15838413]
- Schmiedeskamp M, Harpe S, Polk R, Oinonen M, Pakyz A. Use of International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision Clinical Modification Codes and Medication Use Data to Identify Nosocomial Clostridium difficile Infection. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 2009; 30:1070–1076. [PubMed: 19803724]
- Chapman WW, Christensen LM, Wagner MM, Haug PJ, Ivanov O, Dowling JN, et al. Classifying free-text triage chief complaints into syndromic categories with natural language processing. Artif Intell Med. 2005; 33:31–40. [PubMed: 15617980]
- Friedman, C., Knirsch, C., Shagina, L., Hripcsak, G. Automating a severity score guideline for community-acquired pneumonia employing medical language processing of discharge summaries; Proc AMIA Symp; 1999. p. 256-260.
- Fiszman M, Chapman WW, Aronsky D, Evans RS, Haug PJ. Automatic detection of acute bacterial pneumonia from chest X-ray reports. J AM Med Inform Assoc. 2000; 7:593–604. [PubMed: 11062233]
- Hripcsak G, Austin JH, Alderson PO, Friedman C. Use of natural language processing to translate clinical information from a database of 889,921 chest radiographic reports 1. Radiology. 2002; 224:157–163. [PubMed: 12091676]

Appendix I

Note Types	Note Sections	Service Groups
Miscellaneous	Chief Complaint	Orthopedic
Test- Oriented Miscellaneous	History of Present Illness	Podiatry
Dismissal Summary	Family History	Endocrinology
Therapy	System Reviews	Emergency Medicine
Emergency Medicine Hospital Admission Note Visit	Anticipated Problems and Interventions	Allergy
Hospital Admission Note	Informed Consent	Dermatology
Emergency Medicine Visit	Patient Education	Sports Medicine
	Physical Examination	Spine Center
		Work Rehabilitation
		Plastic Surgery
		Nursing Home
		Social Services
		Addiction

Excluded - Note types, note sections and service groups

Appendix II

Included - Note types, note sections and service groups

Note Types	Note Sections	Service Groups
Consult	Impression/Report/Plan	Primary Care
Subsequent Visit	Diagnosis	Hospital Internal Medicine
Patient Progress	Principal/primary Diagnosis	General Medicine
Supervisory	Secondary Diagnoses	Family Medicine
Limited Exam	Past Medical/Surgical History	Critical Care
Specialty Evaluation	Ongoing Care	Urgent Care
Multisystem Evaluation	Immunizations	Cardiology
Injection	Key Findings/Test Results	Vascular
Educational Visit	Pre-Procedure Information	Pulmonary
Hospital Service Transfer	Post-Procedure Information	Oncology
	Vital Signs Nephrology	
	Current Medications Neurology	
	Revision History	Pathology
	Special Instructions	Gastroenterology
	Advance Directives	Vascular Wound Care

Note Types	Note Sections	Service Groups
	Discharge Activity	Vascular Surgery
	Final Pathology Diagnosis	Cardiac Surgery

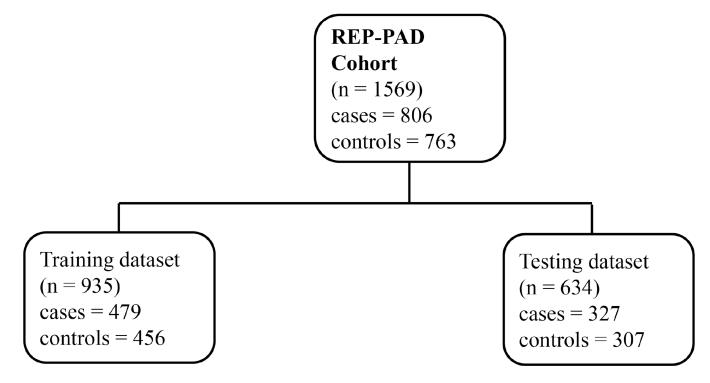


Figure 1. Dataset Description

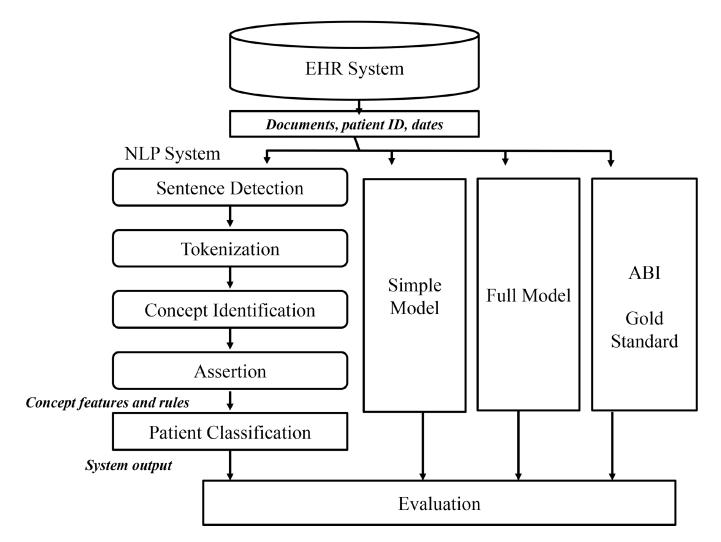


Figure 2. Study Design

Afzal et al.

<u>File Edit Run Tools Help</u>	
Analysis Results	Text
 	 The patient has had intermittent headaches in the past, but he has had approximately three or four headaches in the last few weeks. He notes that he usually gets this in afternoon. They are located in the occipital area, and the muscles in the posterior area of the neck are also tender associated with them. He has been taking no medication for these as I cautioned him not to take any nonsteroidals. The headaches do not wake him up at night. He notes that they are sometimes made worse when he has day where he is doing a lot of welding and looking at the bright lights from that. In addition, he has not had a recent check of his vision and notes that he sometimes has blurry vision when reading things do to him. He notes that simply resting or going to sleep will relieve his headaches. He has no real associated photo- or phonophobia. #1 Claudication In July of 1999, we obtained a non-invasive arterial studies which revealed right-sided multi-level arteriat bocclusive disease, moderate severity in the right lower extremity. The left lower extremity was normal. Exercise was terminated at 2 minutes because of right-sided claudication. I had previously given the patient a prescription for Trental. However, he has not been taking this as he not bothered particularly by symptoms from his claudication at the moment. #2 Nicotine dependence, still smoking. #3 History of seizure disorder Discontinued Dilantin two years ago. #4 Open reduction and internal fixation of the left ankle. #5 Alypical chest pain The patient had a dobutamine echo in 1996 which showed no evidence of ischemia.

Figure 3. PAD Concept Visualization





Figure 4. Accuracy of NLP algorithm compared with billing code algorithms (simple model and full model) for ascertainment of PAD status

Table I

PAD-related Keywords for Ascertainment of PAD Status

Confirmation Keywords - Disease Location-I

tibial/Iliac/femoral/popliteal; lle; rle; distal/infraenal/abdominal aorta; aorto biiliac/bifermoral/iliac/femoral; calcaneal region; calx; hock/hockings; below/above knee; foot/feet; toe/toes; shin; anterior leg region; anterior part leg; plantar; heel; ankle; interdigital

Confirmation Keywords - Disease Location-II

tibial/Iliac/femoral/popliteal artery/arteries; sfa; dfa; cfa; distal/ infrarenal /abdominal aorta/aorto (bi)iliac/ aorto(bi)iliac/aorto(bi)-iliac; aorto-(bi)femoral

Confirmation Keywords - Disease Location-III

lower limb/limbs; lower extremity/extremities; leg/legs

Confirmation Keywords – First Diagnosis-I

ncv (non-compressible vessels); nca (non-compressible arteries); pca (poorly compressible arteries); pcv (poorly compressible vessels); stiff vessels/arteries ischemia; positive abi/ankle brachial index/vascular labs/extremities study/arterial studies; thrombectomy; removal thrombus; thromboembolectomy; thrombosis/thrombose; embolectomy/embolectomies; arterial occlusive disease/occlusion/occluded; stenosis; peripheral arterial disease; peripheral arterial disease; arterial and venous occlusion; arterial occluded; obstruction; block artery

Confirmation Keywords – First Diagnosis-II

recanalization; angioplasty; pta (percutaneous transluminal angioplasty); stenting/stent; endarterectomy/ endarterectomies

Confirmation Keywords – First Diagnosis-III

revascularization; graft; bypass

Confirmation Keywords – Second Diagnosis

Amputation

Confirmation Keywords – Third Diagnosis

claudication; lameness; leg pain walk; limp; calf/calve pain; ischemic ulcer; aso/arteriosclerosis obliterans; atherosclerotic disease; cramp; pain; discomfort

Exclusion Keywords-I

family history of; upper extremity/extremities; brachium; brachial region; forelimb; arm between shoulder elbow arm/arms; hand/hands; manus; brachial/axillary/ celiac/coronary/ cerebrovascular/renal/radial/ulnar/carotid /subclavian/innominate/ mesenteric/brachio-cephalic artery/arteries; brachio-cephalic trunk; coronary arterial tree cerebrovascular disease; pseudoclaudication; pseudoclaudicatory pain; aaa (abdominal aortic aneurysm); spinal stenosis; venous thrombosis; thromboembolism; dvt (deep vein thrombosis); vein thrombosis thrombosis/femoral/popliteal/saphenous vein; aortomesenteric; superficial thrombophlebitis; thrombosis venous system; pseudoaneurysm; normal abi

Exclusion Keywords-II

vascular calcification; varicose veins

Exclusion Keywords-III

traumatic/trauma; injury wound; sarcoma; osteoma; diabetic foot; hammer toe

Exclusion Keywords-IV

lower extremity/extremities edema/cellulitis/venous system; carotid artery disease/spinal ischemia; iliac artery aneurysm; spinal/foraminal/lumbar/canal/cervical/carotid stenosis; femoral/popliteal/tibial vein/veins; carotid/cerebrovascular/renal/mesenteric arterial occlusive disease; carotid/renal endarterectomy; coronary/gastric/heart/carotid-to-axillary/sequential saphenous vein/saphenous vein harvest/myocardial infarction bypass; abdominal aortic aneurysm repair graft; capillary/deep pain thrombosis; carotid arteriosclerosis obliterans; renal allograft artery angioplasty

5 Iterati

Table II

	CVCTPM	
	ement	
•	TIVP	

		Train	Training Dataset		
	Sensitivity (%) 95% CI	Specificity (%) 95% CI	PPV (%) 95% CI	NPV (%) 95% CI	Accuracy (%) 95% CI
Version A -Keeping all note types and note sections	95.4 93.5, 97.3	78.5 74.7, 82.3	82.3 79.2, 85.5	94.2 91.8, 96.6	87.2 85.0, 89.3
Version B - Excluding selected note types (Appendix I)	95.0 93.0, 96.9	81.8 78.3, 85.3	84.6 81.5, 87.6	94.0 91.6, 96.3	88.6 86.5, 90.6
Version C: Excluding selected note sections (Appendix I)	91.6 89.2, 94.1	87.9 84.9, 90.9	88.9 86.1, 91.6	90.9 88.2, 93.6	89.8 87.9, 91.8
Version E: Excluding selected note types, note sections and service groups (Appendix I)	91.4 88.9, 93.9	94.1 91.9, 96.2	94.2 92.1, 96.3	91.3 88.7, 93.8	92.7 91.1, 94.4

Results of NLP algorithm compared to billing code algorithms (simple model and full model) for ascertainment of PAD status

	L L	Training Dataset	st		Tes	Testing Dataset		
	NLP 95% CI	Full model 95% CI	Simple model 95% CI	NLP 95% CI	Full model 95% CI	Simple model 95% CI	p-value NLP vs. full model	p-value NLP vs. simple model
Sensitivity (%)	91.4 88.9, 93.9	93.9 91.8, 96.1	86.0 82.9, 89.1	91.2 88.1, 94.2	$97.0 \\95.1, 98.8$	89.6 86.3, 92.9	<.001	.45
Specificity (%)	94.1 91.9, 96.2	68.4 64.2, 72.7	79.8 76.1, 83.5	92.5 89.6, 95.5	64.2 58.8, 69.5	75.9 71.1, 80.7	<.001	<.001
PPV (%)	94.2 92.1, 96.3	75.8 72.3, 79.2	81.7 78.4, 85.1	92.9 90.0, 95.7	74.3 70.2, 78.4	79.9 75.8, 84.0	<.001	<.001
NPV (%)	91.3 88.7, 93.8	91.5 88.5, 94.5	84.5 81.0, 87.9	90.7 87.5, 93.9	95.2 92.2, 98.1	87.3 83.3, 91.3	.01	.10
Accuracy (%)	92.7 91.1, 94.4	81.5 79.0, 84.0	83.0 80.6, 85.4	91.8 89.7, 93.9	81.1 78.1, 84.1	$83.0 \\ 80.1, 85.9$	<.001	<.001

Table IV Reasons for false positives and false negatives in the best NLP system

F	alse Positives
Category	Example
Suspected PAD	"he does have palpable dorsalis pedis pulses of the <u>feet</u> bilaterally with a difficult to palpate right posterior tibial pulse. Noninvasive arterial studies of the <u>lower extremities</u> will be performed to evaluate the severity and extent of <u>peripheral arterial</u> <u>disease</u> ."
Ambiguity and complexity of natural language	"She lives with her husband who is status post renal transplant in 1999. He struggles with diabetes and <u>arteriosclerosis</u> in both <u>lower extremities</u> ."
F	alse Negatives
Absence of location and/or diagnostic keywords	"she clearly has <u>peripheral arterial disease</u> , but the left is worse than the right"
ABI results not reported in clinical notes due to recently developed acute health problem	"Diminished pedal pulses: We will obtain noninvasive vascular studies of the lower extremities (September 12, XXXX)". ABI testing completed and reported on September 18, XXXX as mildly abnormal but not mentioned in the subsequent clinical notes. On the same day, the patient had new symptoms, was diagnosed with new atrial fibrillation, and underwent comprehensive cardiovascular evaluation for assessment of this acute condition.
Typographic errors	Instead of the correct term "ABI" clinical note snippet contains a typographic error "ADI": "patient also has an appointment with the cardiologist today for further evaluation of his abnormal <u>ADI</u> ."