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## Evaluation of revascularization benefit quartiles using the Wound, Ischemia, and foot Infection classification system for diabetic patients with chronic limb-threatening ischemia

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### Abstract

**Objective:** The Society for Vascular Surgery Wound, Ischemia, and foot Infection (WIFI) classification system was developed to stratify the risk of 1-year major amputation. Recently, the WIFI scores were used to define the estimated revascularization benefit quartiles ranging from high benefit (Q1) to questionable benefit (Q4). The aim of our study was to evaluate the revascularization benefit quartiles in a cohort of diabetic patients presenting with chronic limb-threatening ischemia (CLTI).

**Methods:** All diabetic patients presenting to our multidisciplinary diabetic foot and wound clinic (June 2012 to May 2020) who underwent lower extremity revascularization for CLTI were included. The affected limbs were graded using the WIFI system and assigned to an estimated benefit of revascularization quartile as previously published. One-year major amputation, complete foot healing, secondary patency, and amputation-free survival were calculated among the quartiles using Kaplan-Meier curve analyses and compared using Cox proportional hazards models.

**Results:** Overall, 136 diabetic patients underwent revascularization of 187 limbs (mean age, 64.9 ± 11.2 years; 63.2% male; 58.8% black). The limbs were revascularized using an endovascular

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approach for 66.8% and open surgery for 33.2%. Of the 187 limbs, 27.3% had a high estimated benefit of revascularization (Q1), 31.6% had a moderate estimate benefit of revascularization (Q2), 20.3% had a low estimated benefit of revascularization (Q3), and 20.9% had a questionable benefit of revascularization (Q4). The estimated 1-year major amputation rates were  $7.2\% \pm 4.1\%$  for Q1,  $3.8\% \pm 2.6\%$  for Q2,  $7.0\% \pm 4.8\%$  for Q3, and  $25.7\% \pm 7.5\%$  for Q4 ( $P = .006$ ). The estimated 1-year foot healing rates were  $87.3\% \pm 5.7\%$  for Q1,  $84.8\% \pm 5.6\%$  for Q2,  $83.8\% \pm 7.4\%$  for Q3, and  $68.2\% \pm 9.1\%$  for Q4 ( $P = .06$ ). The overall secondary patency ( $P = .23$ ) and amputation-free survival ( $P = .33$ ) did not significantly differ among the groups. Using Cox proportional hazard modeling, the Q4 group had a significantly greater risk of major amputation compared with Q1 (hazard ratio, 4.26; 95% confidence interval, 1.15-15.70). Of the 14 limbs requiring major amputation, 9 (56.3%) had a patent revascularization at the time of amputation, including one of three limbs in Q1, two of two limbs in Q2, no limb in Q3, and six of nine limbs in Q4.

**Conclusions:** The questionable estimated revascularization benefit quartile using the Wifi classification system is significantly associated with 1-year major amputation in diabetic patients presenting with CLTI. Limbs with a questionable benefit of revascularization (Q4) will frequently require major amputation despite a patent revascularization, suggesting that the wound size and infection burden are the driving factors behind the elevated risk of major amputation in this group. Our findings support the previously described use of the Wifi classification system to predict revascularization benefit among diabetic patients with CLTI.

## Keywords

Revascularization benefit; Wifi; Chronic limb-threatening ischemia; Diabetic foot ulcer

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The Society for Vascular Surgery Wound, Ischemia, and foot Infection (Wifi) classification system was developed to stratify the risk of 1-year major amputation for patients presenting with chronic limb-threatening ischemia (CLTI).<sup>1</sup> The same report defined the Wifi-based estimated likelihood of benefit and/or requirement for revascularization stages, although this classification system has not been widely applied to date. However, the Wifi system was developed using the Delphi method, which relies on expert consensus rather than evidence-based data, and the risk classification for major amputation at 1 year is based on the assumption that revascularization was not performed.

Recently, Mayor et al<sup>2</sup> used the Wifi classification system to identify CLTI patients who were most likely to benefit from revascularization. Using data from 10 centers collected from 2005 to 2015, they calculated the difference between the predicted and observed major amputation risk for patients who had undergone revascularization. The Wifi scores for those patients were then used to define the estimated revascularization benefit quartiles, ranging from high benefit (Q1) to questionable benefit (Q4).

If the revascularization benefit quartiles can be replicated in additional populations, they could improve the risk stratification of patients presenting with CLTI. This would help surgeons provide an evidence-based estimate of limb prognosis with and without revascularization. The aim of our study was to evaluate the revascularization benefit quartiles in a cohort of diabetic patients who had presented with CLTI.

## METHODS

### Study cohort.

We included all patients with diabetes who had presented to our multidisciplinary diabetic foot and wound clinic from June 2012 through May 2020 with CLTI and underwent lower extremity revascularization. Patients with claudication and those who did not undergo revascularization were excluded. We also did not include patients with WIfI stage 5 limbs (unsalvageable) or patients with CLTI but without diabetes, because the aim of our study was to evaluate the revascularization benefit quartiles in a cohort of diabetic patients who presented with CLTI. The patients were referred via both inpatient and outpatient consultations and were enrolled in a prospective database that collected longitudinal demographic, comorbidity, wound, revascularization, and outcomes data. A small subset of the limbs included in the present study (through November 2017) had also been included in the study by Mayor et al.<sup>2</sup> All the patients provided written informed consent before enrollment in the database. The institutional review board approved the present study.

### Treatment paradigm.

The details of our multidisciplinary limb preservation service have been described previously.<sup>3</sup> In brief, the patients were initially evaluated by a vascular surgeon, surgical podiatrist, endocrinologist, and wound care nurse. The comorbidities were managed, and wound care was initiated.

All the patients underwent noninvasive vascular laboratory testing to assess their lower extremity perfusion at their initial presentation to our clinic. Patients with a toe pressure of  $\leq 60$  mm Hg typically underwent diagnostic angiography with the intent to perform a peripheral vascular intervention. Our practice of pursuing revascularization even for moderate ischemia was determined by our previous experience of poor foot collateral circulation in diabetic patients that led to inferior outcomes in those who did not undergo revascularization. For those patients with a toe pressure  $>60$  mm Hg, revascularization was reserved for those wounds that fail to heal despite aggressive wound care measures. The revascularization approach was left to the surgeon's discretion, and postoperative vascular laboratory test results were monitored closely to ensure appropriate improvement in perfusion. After revascularization, patients underwent debridement or minor amputation of their foot wounds (if present) back to healthy tissue and/or bone. The patients were then followed up regularly on an outpatient basis in the multidisciplinary clinic. Home nursing was used liberally to assist with wound care. Intravenous antibiotics were used for all those who underwent proximal bone resection (ie, involving the metatarsal or more proximally) according to input from our infectious diseases colleagues.

### Definitions.

At their vascular intervention, all the patients' limbs were graded using the WIfI classification system by provider consensus.<sup>1</sup> The limbs were not reclassified after debridement or revascularization. We used this classification to assign the individual limbs to risk difference quartiles according to their estimated benefit from revascularization.<sup>2</sup> Quartile (Q) 1 represents WIfI scores with the greatest estimated benefit of

revascularization, Q2 represents WIfI scores with a moderate estimated benefit of revascularization, Q3 represents WIfI scores with a low benefit of revascularization, and Q4 represents WIfI scores with a questionable benefit of revascularization (Supplementary Table I, online only). The estimated 1-year lower extremity amputation rates are 4.4% for Q1, 14.8% for Q2, 28.1% for Q3, and 51.2% for Q4 as defined by the data reported by Mayor et al.<sup>2</sup> However, Mayor et al.<sup>2</sup> only classified the revascularization benefit for 49 of the 64 potential WIfI combinations. In our cohort, only two limbs had a WIfI combination that was not included in the report by Mayor et al.<sup>2</sup> One limb was WIfI 113 and one was WIfI 123. These patients were placed into the revascularization benefit according to the original WIfI report<sup>1</sup> (WIfI 113, moderate benefit; WIfI 123, high benefit).

The primary outcome of our study was 1-year major amputation, which was chosen to match the primary outcome of the original WIfI classification description<sup>1</sup> and the report by Mayor et al.<sup>2</sup> The secondary outcomes included 1-year complete foot healing, secondary patency, and amputation-free survival. Complete foot healing was defined as complete epithelialization of all foot wounds with sustained functional and anatomic continuity for 6 weeks.<sup>4,5</sup> Secondary patency was determined from the duplex ultrasound findings (performed at 6 weeks postoperatively and every 3 months thereafter for the first year) using the Rutherford recommended reporting standards.<sup>6</sup>

### Statistical analysis.

All descriptive variables were summarized using counts and percentages or the mean  $\pm$  standard error, as appropriate. The 1-year outcomes were estimated using life table analyses and Kaplan-Meier curves and compared between the estimated benefit of revascularization quartiles using log-rank tests. We then used Cox proportional hazards models clustered by patient to calculate the hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the association of the revascularization benefit quartiles (Q1-Q4) with the primary and secondary outcomes.

All statistical tests were two sided, with an  $\alpha$  of 0.05. Statistical analyses were performed using Stata, version 14 (StataCorp LP, College Station, Tex).

## RESULTS

Overall, 136 diabetic patients underwent revascularization of 187 limbs (Table 1). Their mean age was  $64.9 \pm 11.2$  years, 63.2% were men, and 58.8% were black. Most of the patients had non-insulin-dependent diabetes (91.9%). Hypertension (91.2%), dyslipidemia (72.1%), and coronary artery disease (45.6%) were also common. The median follow-up time was 18.0 months (interquartile range, 4.2-28.2 months).

The indication for lower extremity revascularization was a diabetic foot ulcer in 50.8%, gangrene in 42.9%, and rest pain in 6.4%. The limbs were revascularized using an endovascular approach in 66.8% and open surgery in 33.2% (Table II). More than one half of the limbs treated had been classified as WIfI stage 4 (59.9%), followed by stage 3 (24.1%), stage 2 (9.6%), and stage 1 (6.4%). A breakdown of limbs by individual WIfI grade is provided in Supplementary Table II (online only). Of the 187 limbs, 27.3% had a

high estimated benefit of revascularization (Q1), 31.6% had a moderate estimate benefit of revascularization (Q2), 20.3% had a low estimated benefit from revascularization (Q3), and 20.9% had a questionable benefit of revascularization (Q4).

The estimated 1-year major amputation rates were  $7.2\% \pm 4.1\%$  for Q1,  $3.8\% \pm 2.6\%$  for Q2,  $7.0\% \pm 4.8\%$  for Q3, and  $25.7\% \pm 7.5\%$  for Q4 ( $P = .006$ ; Fig, A). The estimated 1-year foot healing rates were  $87.3\% \pm 5.7\%$  for Q1,  $84.8\% \pm 5.6\%$  for Q2,  $83.8\% \pm 7.4\%$  for Q3, and  $68.2\% \pm 9.1\%$  for Q4 ( $P = .06$ ; Fig, B). The 1-year secondary patency ( $P = .23$ ; Fig, C) and amputation-free survival ( $P = .33$ ; Fig, D) did not significantly differ among the groups. Also, no significant difference was found in the 1-year survival among the groups ( $P = .47$ ; Supplementary Fig, online only).

Cox proportional hazard modeling showed that the Q4 group had a significantly greater risk of major amputation compared with the Q1 group (HR, 4.26; 95% CI, 1.15-15.70). No significant differences were found in the risk of major amputation for Q2 or Q3 compared with Q1. The Q4 limbs had a slightly lower HR for complete foot healing (HR, 0.61; 95% CI, 0.35-1.05); however, the difference was not statistically significant ( $P = .08$ ). Patency and amputation-free survival were not significantly different among the groups (Table III).

Of the 137 limbs with 1 year of follow-up, 16 (11.7%) ultimately required major amputation at 1 year (Table IV; Supplementary Table III, online only). Of those 16 limbs, 9 (56.3%) had been classified as Q4 (questionable benefit), 3 (18.8%) as Q1 (highest benefit), 2 (12.5%) as Q2 (moderate benefit), and 2 as Q3 (low benefit). At the time of amputation, 9 (56.3%) limbs had a patent revascularization, including 1 of 3 in the Q1 group (33.3%), 2 of 2 in the Q2 group (100%), none in the Q3 group (0%), and 6 of 9 in the Q4 group (66.7%). Stratification of the individual WIfI grades (Supplementary Table III, online only) showed that major amputation was more common among limbs with either more extensive wounds (wound grade 3) or more ischemia (ischemia grade 3). Severe foot infection (foot infection grade 3) was uncommon among the limbs requiring major amputation.

The association of various prognostic classification schemes with major amputation is provided in Supplementary Table IV (online only). The major amputation rates for the WIfI clinical stages (classified according to amputation risk) ranged from 8.3% for stage 1 to 12.5% for stage 4. The major amputation rates for the WIfI clinical stages (classified according to the theoretical revascularization benefit) ranged from 18.2% for stage 1 to 12.7% for stage 4. The major amputation rates for the revascularization benefit quartiles as defined by Mayor et al<sup>2</sup> ranged from 8.8% for Q1 to 29.0% for Q4. Although the 95% CIs for all observed/expected ratios were large because of the small event numbers, the largest differential in major amputation risk was observed with the revascularization benefit quartiles.

## DISCUSSION

The WIfI classification system has recently been used to identify which patients with CLTI would be most likely to benefit from lower extremity revascularization.<sup>2</sup> Using the individual scores for each of the WIfI components (ie, wound, ischemia, and foot infection),

the quartiles of potential revascularization benefit were described. In the present study, we sought to evaluate these quartiles in a contemporary cohort of CLTI patients with diabetes. We found a significant association between the revascularization quartile and the need for a major amputation. Specifically, patients with WIfI scores corresponding to Q4, indicating a questionable benefit of revascularization, had a significantly greater risk of major amputation compared with those with Q1 to Q3. The foot healing rates were also slightly lower in the Q4 group, although the difference was not statistically significant ( $P = .06$ ). Overall, our data support the use of the previously described WIfI benefit of revascularization quartiles for estimating the 1-year major amputation risk for diabetic patients presenting with CLTI.<sup>2</sup>

The estimated risk of major amputation in the original study by Mayor et al<sup>2</sup> ranged from 4.4% for Q1 (highest benefit of revascularization) to 51.2% for Q4 (questionable benefit of revascularization) and increased linearly across the groups. We found a significantly greater risk of major amputation for the Q4 patients (29.0%) compared with the other groups. However, our 1-year major amputation rate was one half of that expected for Q4 limbs,<sup>2</sup> and the risk of major amputation was relatively similar, and low, for the Q1 through Q3 limbs. Our data suggest that a clear disadvantage exists for a Q4 WIfI score but that the outcomes for the other quartiles of revascularization benefit tend to overlap. The discrepancy for the outcomes of the Q1 to Q3 groups in our study compared with the data reported by Mayor et al<sup>2</sup> might have been because our unique patient cohort was limited to patients with diabetes, the high burden of WIfI grade 2 and 3 wounds, insufficient power to detect a difference in outcomes among the Q1 to Q3 groups, and/or our care delivery model. Although we did not directly assess the association of our care model with the revascularization outcomes in the present study, all our patients with diabetes and CLTI are treated by our multidisciplinary team, which has been previously shown to have robust limb salvage outcomes regardless of the patient comorbidity burden or socioeconomic disadvantage.<sup>7,8</sup> Multidisciplinary teams have been associated with better limb salvage outcomes in a wide variety of patient populations after revascularization,<sup>9-12</sup> which might have contributed to the lower rates of major amputation in our study.

More than one half of the patients who ultimately required amputation in our study had a patent lower extremity revascularization at the time of their amputation. Among the patients in the Q4 group, more than two thirds required major amputation despite the presence of a patent revascularization. This finding suggests that patients with more extensive wounds and/or more infection might have a lower benefit of revascularization. Although patients with worse ischemia also had increased amputation rates, this was typically related to bypass thrombosis. According to the Global Vascular Guidelines for Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia, “revascularization should not be performed in the absence of significant ischemia (WIfI ischemia grade 0) unless an isolated region of poor perfusion in conjunction with major tissue loss (eg, WIfI wound grade 2 or 3) can be effectively targeted.”<sup>13</sup> In our study, most limbs requiring amputation had had either extensive wounds (WIfI wound grade 3) or a failed revascularization in the setting of extensive preoperative ischemia (ischemia grade 3). Using the WIfI scoring system, Mayor et al<sup>2</sup> reported that wound severity was most strongly associated with major amputation risk after revascularization. Consistent with this finding, ulcer size has been associated with worse amputation and wound healing outcomes

in previous diabetic foot ulcer studies.<sup>7,14,15</sup> Together, these data suggest that patients with extensive foot wounds should be counseled that their risk of major amputation is high even if revascularization is achieved.

The slightly lower rate of wound healing that we found for Q4 limbs in our study is novel. Although this finding was not quite significant ( $P = .06$ ), the Q4 limbs had a 39% lower likelihood of achieving complete foot healing at 1 year compared with the Q1 limbs. The clinical implications are clear. If the WiFi revascularization benefit quartiles are associated with both major amputation and foot healing, the limbs in the questionable benefit category should be carefully scrutinized before the patient is offered a revascularization procedure. Lower extremity revascularization is costly to the healthcare system,<sup>16</sup> especially for advanced staged wounds.<sup>17,18</sup> If clinical benefit is unlikely to be achieved, perhaps primary amputation would be the most appropriate for patients presenting with advanced Q4 stage wounds, especially if the patient is functionally impaired or chronically ill.<sup>19</sup>

The concept of using WiFi scores to estimate the revascularization benefit for diabetic patients presenting with CLTI is clinically relevant. Diabetic patients with peripheral artery disease have a significantly greater risk of mortality compared to patients with peripheral artery disease but without diabetes,<sup>20</sup> and the morbidity occurring after lower extremity revascularization in this population is high.<sup>11,21,22</sup> Although good long-term outcomes with both open and endovascular revascularization approaches are possible,<sup>11,21,23</sup> appropriate patient selection is critical. We have been using the WiFi classification system in our multidisciplinary diabetic foot and wound clinic since 2015 to provide patients with an estimated likelihood of wound healing.<sup>3</sup> However, we have not previously observed a correlation between the WiFi stage and the risk of major amputation in our patient population,<sup>3,7</sup> which made conversations about the appropriateness of revascularization for patients with extensive wounds quite difficult. We anticipate that we will be able to incorporate the WiFi revascularization benefit classification scheme into our patient conversations, thereby allowing us to have more quantitative conversations about the risks and benefits of aggressive revascularization procedures for patients at particularly high risk of surgery. Thus, when a patient presents with a Q4 limb, we will be able to have a greater discussion, not only about the probability of limb salvage, but also about patient-centered functional outcomes in the long term. The revascularization benefit quartiles evaluated in the present study provided a larger differential of the major amputation estimates compared with the traditional WiFi classification system for major amputation, suggesting that both tools have relevance in the clinical setting.

The limitations of our study deserve discussion. Although our study was based on a single institution's experience, we made our best efforts to replicate the study by Mayor et al<sup>2</sup> as closely as possible. We were able to confirm the decreased benefit of revascularization for Q4 and believe that this group of patients should be carefully evaluated before committing them to aggressive limb salvage efforts that might not change their amputation rate. However, validation of these findings in a larger cohort is necessary. We also included a very specific patient population (all with diabetes) treated using a well-established care paradigm. Although this approach likely reduced the possibility of residual confounding, whether our findings will translate to other patient populations and other treatment settings is unclear. In

addition, the revascularization procedures were heterogeneous and determined by surgeon discretion. We did not have data to compare how the timing of revascularization might affect the major amputation and patency outcomes or whether postprocedural hemodynamic data played a role. Although we did measure the toe pressure before and after revascularization, the number of missing values because of toe amputations resulted in a low-powered comparison. Thus, we did not include these data in our analysis. However, we have previously shown that the long-term outcomes did not significantly differ for open surgery vs endovascular interventions in this cohort.<sup>11</sup> We were not able to compare the outcomes for patients who had undergone revascularization vs wound care alone because the number of patients in the latter group was extremely low. A comparison of patients with similar WIfI classifications with vs without revascularization would be helpful to better understand the true benefits of revascularization. Also, we had a low number of major amputation events overall, which precluded us from performing adjusted Cox models in assessing the association of the revascularization benefit quartile with the need for major amputation. Finally, in the present study, similar to the study by Mayor et al,<sup>2</sup> we did not assess patient-centered outcomes, which should also be considered. The strengths of our study included the extensive wound details we collected, the longitudinal follow-up of the patients included in our cohort, and the consistent method with which they were treated by our multidisciplinary team.

## CONCLUSIONS

The estimated revascularization benefit quartiles using the WIfI classification system were significantly associated with 1-year major amputation in diabetic patients presenting with CLTI. Limbs with a questionable benefit of revascularization (ie, Q4) frequently required major amputation despite having a patent revascularization, suggesting that wound size and infection burden are the driving factors behind the elevated risk of major amputation in this group. Our findings support the previously described use of the WIfI classification system to predict the revascularization benefit, especially among diabetic patients with CLTI.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## Acknowledgments

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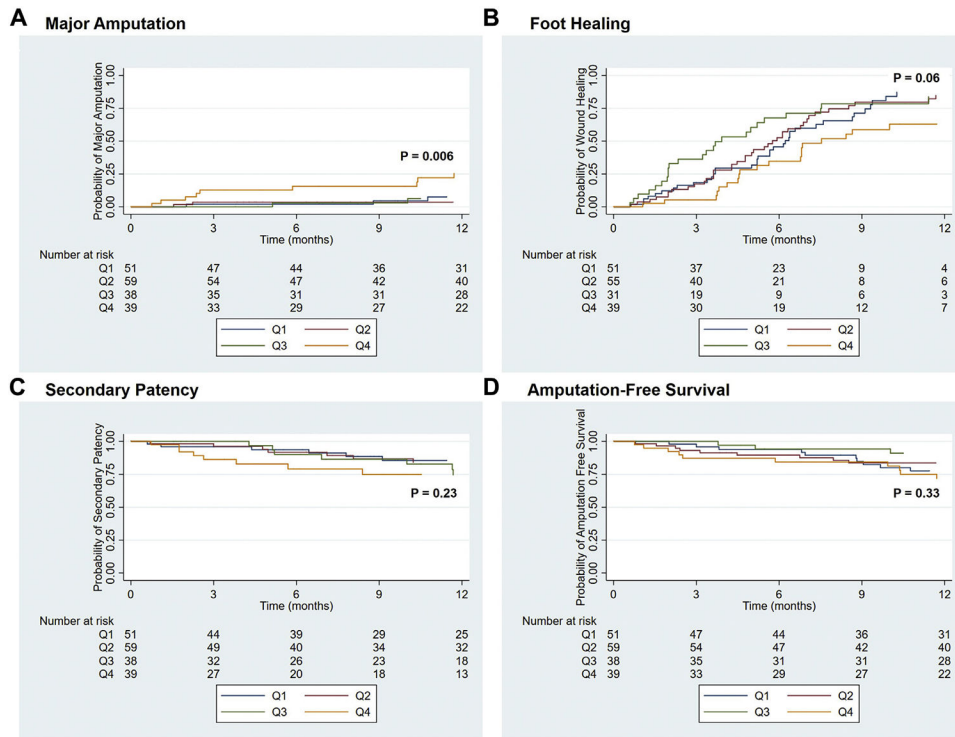


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### ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Type of Research:** A retrospective analysis of a prospectively maintained institutional database
- **Key Findings:** Studying data from 187 lower extremity revascularization procedures, we found that the estimated revascularization benefit quartiles using the Wound, Ischemia, and foot Infection (WIFI) classification system are significantly associated with 1-year major amputation in diabetic patients presenting with chronic limb-threatening ischemia. Limbs with a questionable benefit of revascularization will frequently require major amputation despite patent revascularization.
- **Take Home Message:** Our findings support the previously described use of the WIFI classification system to predict the revascularization benefit for diabetic patients with chronic limb-threatening ischemia.



**Fig.** Kaplan-Meier curves showing major amputation (A), complete foot healing (B), secondary patency (C), and amputation-free survival (D) for diabetic patients who underwent lower extremity revascularization stratified by quartiles (Q) of estimated benefit of revascularization. All standard errors were <10%.

**Table I.**

## Baseline patient characteristics

Variable	Overall (n = 136)
Age, years	64.9 ± 1.0
Male sex	86 (63.2)
Race	
White	49 (36.0)
Black	80 (58.8)
Other/unknown	7 (5.2)
Insurance status	
Medicare/Medicaid	103 (75.7)
Private	31 (22.8)
Other	2 (1.5)
Diabetes mellitus	
Insulin dependent	11 (8.1)
Non-insulin dependent	125 (91.9)
Baseline hemoglobin A1c, %	8.25 ± 2.2
Comorbidity	
Hypertension	124 (91.2)
Dyslipidemia	98 (72.1)
Coronary artery disease	92 (45.6)
Congestive heart failure	28 (20.6)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	7 (5.2)
Cerebrovascular disease	26 (19.1)
Chronic kidney disease	31 (22.8)
Dialysis	23 (16.9)
Retinopathy	45 (33.1)
Neuropathy with loss of protective sensation	133 (97.8)
Smoking status	
Current	28 (20.6)
Former	51 (37.5)
Never	57 (41.9)

Data presented as mean ± standard error or number (%).

**Table II.** Description of treated diabetic limbs stratified by quartile of estimated likelihood of benefit of revascularization

Variable	Overall	Q1 (highest benefit)	Q2 (moderate benefit)	Q3 (low benefit)	Q4 (questionable benefit)	P value
Limbs treated, No.	187 (100)	51 (27.3)	59 (31.6)	38 (20.3)	39 (20.9)	NA
WIFI stage						<.001
1	12 (6.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (29.0)	1 (2.6)	
2	18 (9.6)	0 (0)	7 (11.9)	9 (23.7)	2 (5.1)	
3	45 (24.1)	18 (35.3)	10 (17.0)	16 (42.1)	1 (2.6)	
4	112 (59.9)	33 (64.7)	42 (71.2)	2 (5.3)	35 (89.7)	
Revascularization approach						.09
Endovascular	125 (66.8)	37 (72.6)	32 (54.2)	29 (76.3)	27 (69.2)	
Open surgery	62 (33.2)	14 (27.5)	27 (45.8)	9 (23.7)	12 (30.8)	

NA, Not applicable; Q, quartile; WIFI, Wound, Ischemia, and foot Infection.

Data presented as number (%).

Cox proportional hazards models for 1-year complete foot healing and limb salvage outcomes stratified by quartile of estimated benefit of revascularization

**Table III.**

Outcome	HR (95% CI)			
	Q1 (highest benefit)	Q2 (moderate benefit)	Q3 (low benefit)	Q4 (questionable benefit)
Major amputation	Reference	0.65 (0.11-3.91)	1.03 (0.17-6.15)	4.26 (1.15-15.7)
Complete foot healing	Reference	1.06 (0.67-1.67)	1.34 (0.80-2.25)	0.61 (0.35-1.05)
Loss of patency	Reference	1.04 (0.35-3.11)	1.59 (0.54-4.74)	2.45 (0.87-6.90)
Loss of amputation-free survival	Reference	0.89 (0.36-2.19)	0.46 (0.13-1.68)	1.44 (0.60-3.47)

CI, Confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; Q, quartile.

**Table IV.**

Patency of diabetic limbs requiring major amputation at 1 year stratified by quartile of estimated benefit of revascularization<sup>a</sup>

Quartile	1-year Major amputation	Revascularization patent at major amputation
Overall	16/137 (11.7)	9/16 (56.3)
Q1 (highest benefit)	3/34 (8.8)	1/3 (33.3)
Q2 (moderate benefit)	2/42 (4.8)	2/2 (100)
Q3 (low benefit)	2/39 (6.7)	0/2 (0)
Q4 (questionable benefit)	9/31 (29.0)	6/9 (66.7)

Q, Quartile.

Data presented as number per total (%).

<sup>a</sup>Total number of patients was 137 because those without 1 year of follow-up were excluded from the subanalysis.