

## **Prevalence and associated factors of diabetic foot ulcer among patients with diabetes mellitus attending Diabetic clinic, Teaching Hospital Jaffna**

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**Introduction and Objectives:** Diabetic foot ulcer is a major complication of diabetes mellitus. Multiple risk factors are associated with diabetic foot ulcers. Diabetic foot ulcers are the major cause of diabetic foot infection and lower extremity amputation. This study aimed to assess the prevalence of diabetic foot ulcers among diabetic patients and find the association of selected factors with a diabetic foot ulcer.

**Methods:** It was an institutional-based descriptive cross-sectional study carried out among 292 patients with diabetes mellitus. The data was collected by using a pre-tested interviewer-administered questionnaire after obtaining ethical clearance. A systematic sampling technique was used for selecting participants. The data was analyzed by using SPSS 25. The descriptive statistics were used to describe the variables, and the Chi-squared test was used to identify associated factors.

**Results:** Among the patients who attended to diabetic center, 292 were taken as samples for this study. Among them, 87.32% (n=255) were responded. Among the participants, 4.7% were type 1, and 95.3% were type 2 diabetes mellitus patients, respectively. The mean duration of diabetes mellitus was 10.7 years. The prevalence of diabetic foot ulcers was 21.2% (n=54) and 53.7% (n=29) of diabetic patients with foot ulcers were males. Gender, age, duration of DM, amputation, diet control, hypertension, retinopathy, neuropathy, HbA1c level, moisturizing dry area of feet, wearing footwear and smoking showed statistically significant associations ( $p < 0.05$ ) with the prevalence of diabetic foot ulcer.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of diabetic foot ulcers was high among males. The study found that diabetic foot ulcers had a significant association with gender, age, duration of DM, HbA1c level, retinopathy, hypertension, neuropathy, amputation, moisturizing dry area of feet, wearing footwear and smoking.

**Keywords:** Diabetic foot ulcer, Diabetes mellitus, Prevalence