CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SCREENING AND TREATMENT OF ASYMPTOMATIC PERIPHERY ARTERY DISEASE: WHO DECIDES THE NON-EVIDENCE CORNER

Qinchang Chen¹ and Huang Kai²
¹Sun Yat-sen University, China
²Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital, China

Statement of the Problem: More than 200 million patients have periphery artery disease (PAD) worldwide and the number of asymptomatic PAD patients were several times larger than that in the symptomatic PAD patients. Without obvious clinical symptoms, asymptomatic PAD have the similar risk of cardiovascular mortality and the mortality is much higher than the health. Though the asymptomatic PAD was observed with high morbidity and great hazard, sufficient attention has not been paid. We aimed to systematically appraise the guidelines on the screening and treatment of asymptomatic PAD and find out the agreements and the different in the recommendations.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Clinical guidelines and consensus statements in English to November 2017 were searched using MEDLINE, EMBASE and some websites of guideline organizations. Three reviewers appraised the quality of the included guidelines by using AGREE II instrument. The recommendations were also fully extracted and compared.

Findings: Of 3245 citations identified, 14 guidelines were included. The AGREE score ranged from 35% to 75%, mainly due to poor quality in “rigour of development” domain and “. Editorial Independence” domain. For screening, 10 guidelines contained the recommendations, among which, 8 supported, one opposed and one guidelines considered insufficient evidence. For the treatment, most area was blank and the controversy was in the use of antiplatelet therapy. The guidelines with financial relationships with pharmaceutical industry or without clear statement for conflicts of interest, seemed to be more aggressive in the screening or treatment.

Conclusion & Significance: The quality of most guidelines for the management of asymptomatic PAD should be improved. More clinical studies with high quality are needed to provide the clear-cut evidence to answer the controversy and the clear statement for conflicts of interest should be provided.

Recent Publications

Biography
Huang Kai is the expert in the surgery of peripheral vascular surgery and thyroid surgery. Chen Qinchang, Male, born in January 1995, student of Dr Huang Kai, has been studying in Clinical Medicine Major of Zhongshan School of Medicine in Sun Yat-sen University from August 2013. Without any unexpected accident, he will be awarded the bachelor’s Degree in medicine. Though he is the undergraduate at Grade 5, he has been the expert at data mining, gene chip analysis and clinical research.