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[Impact of diabetic foot ulcer on health-related quality of life: A cross-sectional study.](#)
[Sekhar MS¹](#), [Thomas RR²](#), [Unnikrishnan MK²](#), [Vijayanarayana K²](#), [Rodrigues GS³](#).

Abstract

Studies have reported that health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is adversely affected by diabetic foot ulcer (DFU). There is a paucity of data on the effects of foot ulcers on HRQoL of diabetes patients in our population. Because South-Asians, especially Indians, have unique features related to diabetes and its complications, generalizing the data about their effect on HRQoL from any other part of the world is not a pragmatic approach. This study evaluated the impact of foot ulcers on HRQoL of diabetes patients. This cross-sectional study, conducted in Kasturba Hospital, Manipal (coastal South India), included 200 DFU patients in a study group (SG) and 200 diabetes patients in a control group (CG). The RAND-36 questionnaire was employed for evaluating HRQoL scores for the patients in both groups. DFU patients also completed the Diabetic Foot Ulcer Scale-Short Form questionnaire. Independent t-test was used to test the differences in mean scores. Results found that both CG and SG have "poor" HRQoL (mean score <50) on all the subscales except for two in CG. There is a statistically significant difference between groups ($P < 0.05$) on all eight of the subscales of HRQoL. For both CG and SG, the Physical Component Summary domain score (44.9 ± 6.3 v 28.4 ± 3.4) and Mental Component Summary domain score (42.5 ± 3.8 v 29.5 ± 7.1) were poor. There were significant differences between CG and SG for both mean Physical Component Summary score and Mental Component Summary score of HRQoL ($p < 0.05$). The Diabetic Foot Ulcer Scale-Short Form found that HRQoL is very poor for DFU patients on all six domains. The study concludes that DFU patients have very poor HRQoL compared with diabetic patients. Likewise, the diabetic foot is associated with severely impaired HRQoL in both physical and mental health aspects. This study will help to develop a patient education model for DFU patients by

looking at the various HRQoL domains that are adversely affected by the presence of foot ulcer.

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