



# Predicting the Risk of Diabetic Foot Ulcers From Diabetics With Dysmetabolism: A Retrospective Clinical Trial

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**Background:** Diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2D) often leads to amputation. Early intervention to prevent DFU is urgently necessary. So far, there have been no studies on predictive models associated with DFU risk factors. Our study aimed to quantify the predictive risk value of DFU, promote health education, and further develop behavioral interventions to reduce the incidence of DFU.

**Methods:** Data from 973 consecutive patients with T2D was collected from two hospitals. Patients from the Guangxi Medical University First Affiliated Hospital formed the training cohort (n = 853), and those from the Wuming Hospital of Guangxi Medical University formed the validation cohort (n = 120). Independent variable grouping analysis and multivariate logistic regression analysis were used to determine the risk factors of DFUs. The prediction model was established according to the related risk factors. In addition, the accuracy of the model was evaluated by specificity, sensitivity, predictive value, and predictive likelihood ratio.

**Results:** In total, 369 of the 853 patients (43.3%) and 60 of the 120 (50.0%) were diagnosed with DFUs in the two hospitals. The factors associated with DFU were old age, male gender, lower body mass index (BMI), longer duration of diabetes, history of foot disease, cardiac insufficiency, no use of oral hypoglycemic agent (OHA), high white blood cell count, high platelet count, low hemoglobin level, low lymphocyte absolute value, and high postprandial blood glucose. After incorporating these 12 factors, the nomogram drawn achieved good concordance indexes of 0.89 [95% confidence interval (CI): 0.87 to 0.91] in the training cohort and 0.84 (95% CI: 0.77 to 0.91) in the validation cohort in predicting DFUs and had well-fitted calibration curves. Patients who had a nomogram score of  $\geq 180$  were considered to have a low risk of DFU, whereas those having  $\geq 180$  were at high risk.