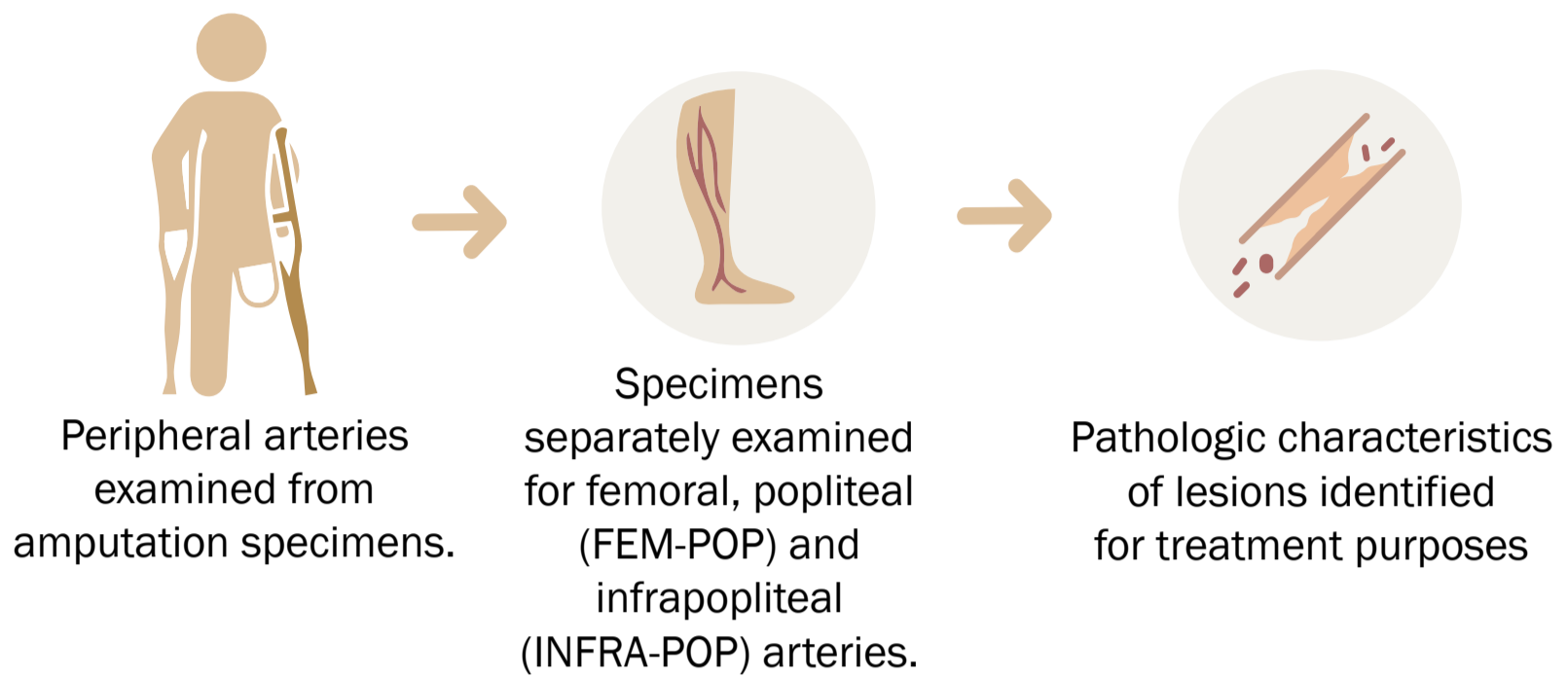


Pathology of Peripheral Artery Disease in Critical Limb Ischemia

Objective: To characterize pathology of PAD in below- and above-knee amputation specimens in patients presenting with CLI.



299 Peripheral arteries from 95 patients (121 amputation specimens) were examined.

69% of 239 arteries obtained from CLI patients showed $\geq 70\%$ stenosis, which was due to significant pathological intimal thickening, fibroatheroma, fibrocalcific lesions, or restenosis.

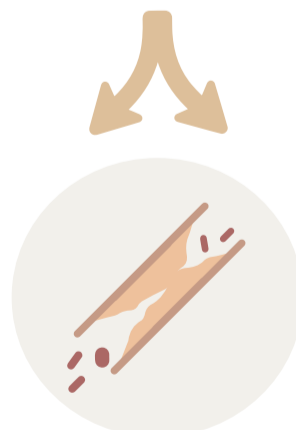


Presence of chronic luminal thrombi was more frequently observed in arteries with insignificant atherosclerosis. (P=0.0002)

Atherosclerotic plaque more frequently observed in FEM-POP



FEM-POP
67.6%



P=0.003



INFRA-POP
38.5%

Thrombotic luminal occlusion associated with insignificant atherosclerosis is commonly observed in CLI and suggests the possibility of thromboembolic disease. The pathological characteristics of arteries in CLI suggest possible mechanisms of progression of PAD to CLI and may support the preventive role of antithrombotic agents.