



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY®

# ACC Health Equity Series

**#ACCDiversity** **#HealthEquity**

**Implementing Innovative Solutions  
to Achieving Equitable PAD Care**

**Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. ET**

# Welcome!

**Melvin R. Echols, MD, MSCR, FACC, FHFA, FASPC -  
ACC Chief Health Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Officer**

- All attendees will be muted
- **Please place all questions in the chat**
- This webinar has four presentations, followed by a Q&A
- The On-Demand recording will be available on ACC.org
- Please join us on X (Twitter) - @ACCinTouch and use #ACCDiversity #HealthEquity
- Thank you for joining and your commitment to advancing cardiovascular health equity for all!

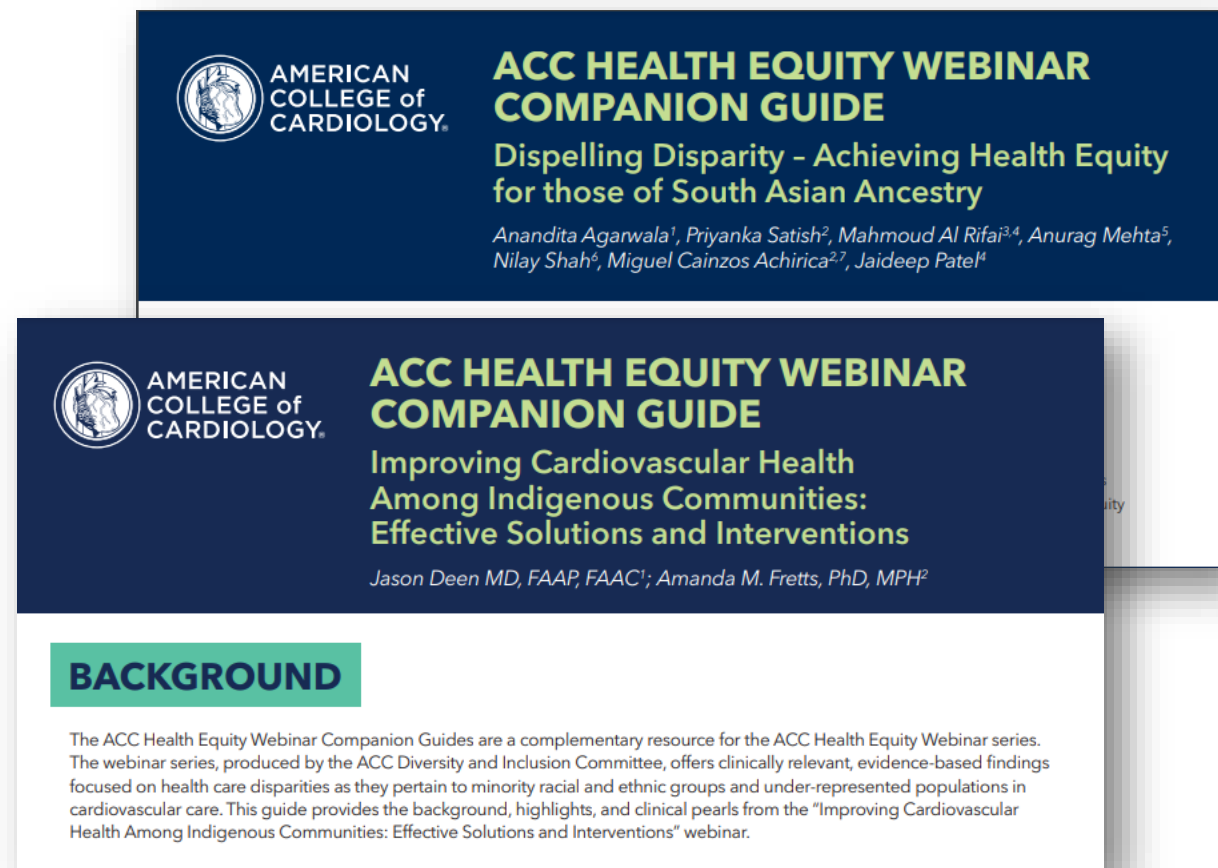
## **VISION**

Achieve a culture of health  
where every person reaches  
their full cardiovascular  
health potential as a  
natural right.

# Background

The ACC Health Equity Webinar series focuses on healthcare disparities in minority racial and ethnic groups and underrepresented populations.

A companion guide developed by the panelists accompanies each webinar.





## Panelist



Osama A. Ibrahim, MD, FACC, FSCAI  
Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine and  
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Pinnacle Vascular Solutions, PLLC (PVS)  
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## Panelist



Marc Bonaca, MD, MPH  
Cardiology,  
Vascular Medicine Specialist  
Executive Director of CPC  
Director of Vascular Research  
Professor of Medicine  
University of Colorado Anschutz

## Panelist



Demetria M. Bolden, PhD, MBA  
Communication Scientist,  
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Scholar, Vascular Disease  
Researcher  
Assistant Professor  
Division of General Internal  
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University of Colorado School of  
Medicine Anschutz Medical Campus

## Panelist



Michael Nguyen Young, MD  
Section Chief,  
Interventional Cardiology,  
Vascular Medicine Specialist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Geisel School of Medicine  
Dartmouth



# Agenda

“Why Should We Focus on PAD?”

“What are the Key Takeaways from the 2024 ACC Guideline for L.E PAD Management?”

“What are the disparities and inequities surrounding diagnosis, management, treatment, and patient outcomes in PAD?”

“How do we implement appropriate therapeutic algorithms and treatment plans for PAD Management?”

# ACC Suite of PAD Patient Resources

**Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)** CardioSmart AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

**PAD** occurs when arteries in the leg become narrowed or clogged, causing less blood flow.

**Signs and symptoms**

These can include:

- Legs hurt or feel heavy when walking, but get better with rest
- Leg pain or cramping in the calf, buttock, hip or thigh
- Can't walk as fast or as far as before
- Wounds don't heal

If you have PAD, you have a greater chance of a heart attack, stroke and limb loss.

1 out of 10 people over age 40 have PAD in the U.S.

While leg pain is common, 4 out of 10 people with PAD don't have leg symptoms.

**Find out if you have it**

Ask for an ABI or ankle brachial index test. It can help tell if there's less blood flowing in your legs.

PAD can run in families, so

**PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE** CardioSmart AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

**Power of exercise**

Exercise is the #1 most important step you can take to live longer and feel better with peripheral artery disease (PAD). Get started today!

**1. Why does exercise help with PAD?**

Think of exercise as medicine. Studies show exercise can be as effective as drugs or surgeries for managing PAD and preventing future heart disease. It can also help improve how far you can walk.

Exercise can:

- Improve blood supply in your limbs,
- Help your blood vessels work better, and
- Change the way your muscles use oxygen.

A natural stress buster, physical activity can also help keep other cardiovascular risk factors – high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes – in check.

**2. But walking hurts! How can I exercise?**

It may seem strange, but working through your pain now can actually reduce your pain in the future.

Regularly exercising to the point of mild to moderate discomfort helps strengthen your muscles and blood vessels. Over time, this will help you walk easier.

**SUPERVISED EXERCISE: SAMPLE SESSION**

- 5 minutes of warm-up
- Several periods of treadmill walking with and gradually working up to higher intensity
- Frequent check-ins about your level of pain, blood pressure and heart rhythm
- 5 minutes of cool-down

Peripheral Artery Disease CardioSmart.org/PAD

**PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE** CardioSmart AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

**What comes next? Managing PAD and other risks**

If you've been told you have peripheral artery disease, or PAD, that means blood is not flowing properly in your legs or arms. It happens when fat and cholesterol (plaque) build up in the arteries of your limbs. It's also a red flag that you could have a heart attack, stroke or amputation in the future.

PAD is a serious condition. But taking action now can help you live longer and feel better. Remember, you are the most important member of your health care team. Your care team is here to support you!

Use this resource to walk through your treatment options and speak up about what matters most to you.

**PAD toolbox**

- Exercise
- Quit Smoking
- Maintain a Healthy Weight
- Emotional Health

**PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE** CardioSmart AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

**Could I have artery disease in my legs?**

Peripheral artery disease, or PAD, means blood is not flowing properly in your legs or arms. It is common as we get older. But PAD is often missed or not talked about. Many people don't even know they have it. To find out, it's important to know your risk factors and look out for signs and symptoms.

Fill out this worksheet and share it with your care team. Your answers will help decide if you should be screened for PAD.

**Things that can make PAD more likely**

- Are you 65 or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you or have you ever smoked? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you have diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure? If yes, check which one(s): ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - ☐ Diabetes
  - ☐ High cholesterol
  - ☐ High blood pressure
- Has anyone in your family had PAD? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you ever had a heart attack, stroke or a procedure to open an artery supplying your heart? If yes, check which one(s): ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - ☐ Heart attack
  - ☐ Stroke
  - ☐ Procedure

Peripheral Artery Disease CardioSmart.org/PAD

**What is PAD?** CardioSmart AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

PAD is short for Peripheral Artery Disease.

PAD happens in much the same way as a heart attack or some strokes. A heart attack or stroke can take place when the arteries of the heart or brain become narrowed to the point that blood flow is slowed down a lot or even cut off.

But with PAD, the arteries that carry blood away from your heart to other parts of your body (called the "peripheral arteries") are affected. It's most common in the legs.

PAD has been linked to heart attack, early death and even loss of a leg. That's why finding and treating PAD is important.

**Who gets PAD?**

Certain things (called risk factors) can make PAD more likely. If you or a family member has any of these, ask about PAD.

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**Common questions about PAD**

Peripheral artery disease (PAD) means blood is not flowing properly in your legs or arms. It happens when fat and cholesterol (plaque) build up in the walls of the arteries in your limbs.

Here are some common questions patients often ask.

**1. I feel fine. Do I really need to be screened for PAD?**

Yes. PAD is often missed because many people have no symptoms at first. Medical guidelines recommend screening for anyone over age 65, as well as people with risk factors such as:

- Diabetes
- Current or past smoking
- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Other forms of heart disease
- A family history of PAD

Screening for PAD is typically done with simple tests. The most common test is to measure your pulse and blood pressure in different parts of your body. If your blood pressure is lower in your ankles than in your arms, this can be a sign that you have PAD.

Whether or not you have symptoms, having PAD raises the likelihood of a heart attack or stroke. Early detection and treatment are essential.

Peripheral Artery Disease CardioSmart.org/PAD

**PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE** CardioSmart AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

**Understanding PAD**

Learn about peripheral artery disease (PAD) and what you can do manage it.

**What is PAD?**

PAD means blood is not flowing properly in your legs or arms. It happens when cholesterol and fatty deposits (plaque) build up in the walls of the arteries in your limbs, most often the legs.

It's also a red flag that you could be more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke in the future.

**How is it diagnosed?**

Your care team can tell if you have PAD based on a few simple and painless tests. They will look to see whether:

- Your pulse is not as strong as it is in your legs/feet
- Your blood pressure is lower in your ankles than in your arms (called your ankle-brachial index)

**Things that make PAD more likely**

- Older age > 65
- Smoking
- Having obesity
- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Family history of PAD

Peripheral Artery Disease CardioSmart.org/PAD

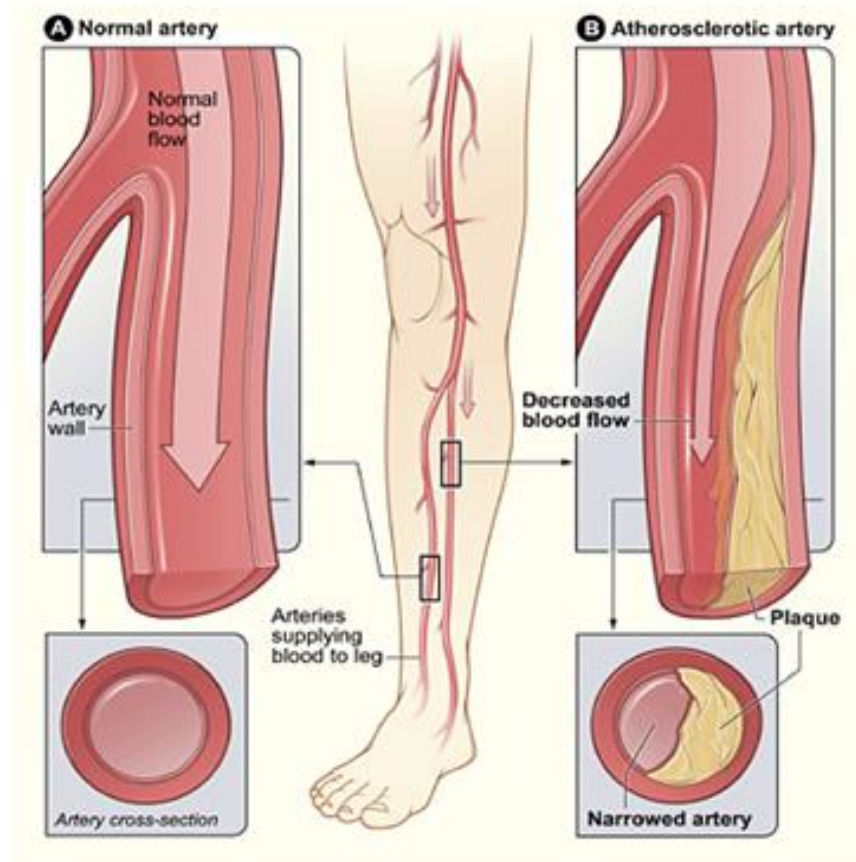
# “Why should we focus on PAD?”





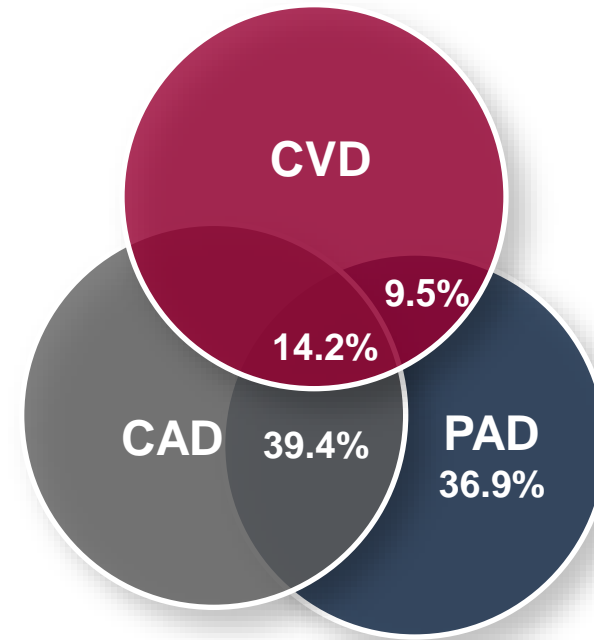
# Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)

- Disease of arteries outside the heart and brain that can lead to loss of a limb and can be life threatening
- Manifestation of systemic atherosclerosis, characterized by narrowing and hardening of the arteries that supply blood to the legs and feet
- Narrowing of the vessels reduces flow of oxygen-rich blood to lower limbs and results in nerve and tissue injury
- Can lead to development of foot ulcers and gangrene
- Iliac, femoropopliteal, and infrapopliteal arteries are commonly affected



# Definition of PAD

- The presence of a stenosis or occlusion in the aorta or arteries of the limbs
- One of the three cardinal manifestations of atherosclerosis in addition to CAD and CVD
- Associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular events, including death, MI and stroke



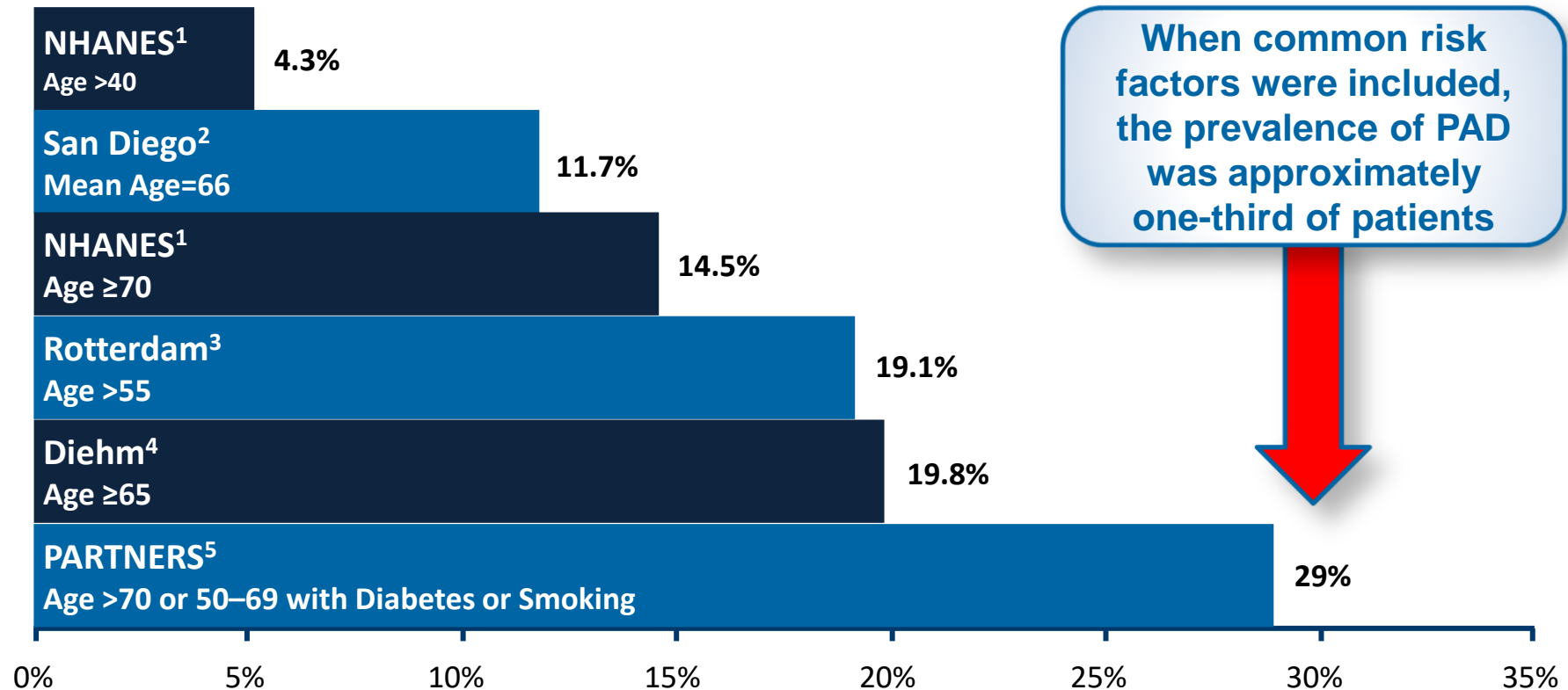
**Patients with one manifestation often have coexistent disease in other vascular beds<sup>1</sup>**

CAD=coronary artery disease; CVD=cardiovascular disease; MI=myocardial infarction.

1. Bhatt DL et al, on behalf of the REACH Registry Investigators. JAMA 2006; 295(2): 180-189

2. Rooke T et al. 2011 ACCF/AHA focused update of the guideline for the management of patients with peripheral arterial disease (updating the 2005 guideline): a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. *Circulation*. 2011;124:2020–2045.

# Prevalence of PAD



NHANES=National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

1. Selvin E, Erlinger T. Prevalence of and risk factors for peripheral arterial disease in the United States: results from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999–2000. *Circulation*. 2004;110:738–743.

2. Criqui M et al. The prevalence of peripheral arterial disease in a defined population. *Circulation*. 1985;71:510–515.

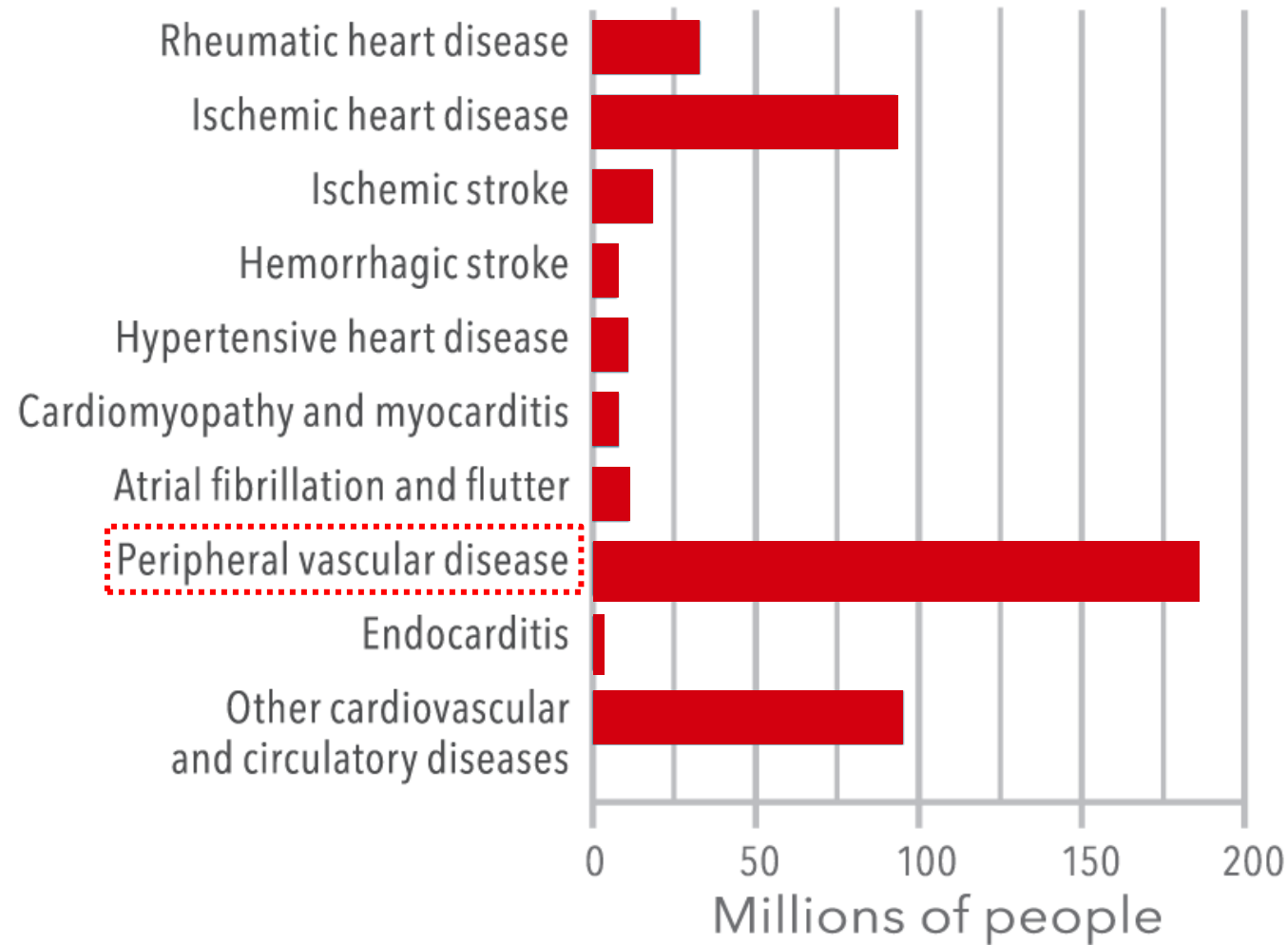
3. Meijer W et al. Peripheral arterial disease in the elderly: the Rotterdam Study. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*. 1998;18:185–192.

4. Diehm C et al. High prevalence of peripheral arterial disease and co-morbidity in 6880 primary care patients: cross-sectional study. *Atherosclerosis*. 2004;172:95–105.

5. Hirsch A et al. Peripheral arterial disease detection, awareness, and treatment in primary care. *JAMA*. 2001;286:1317–1324.

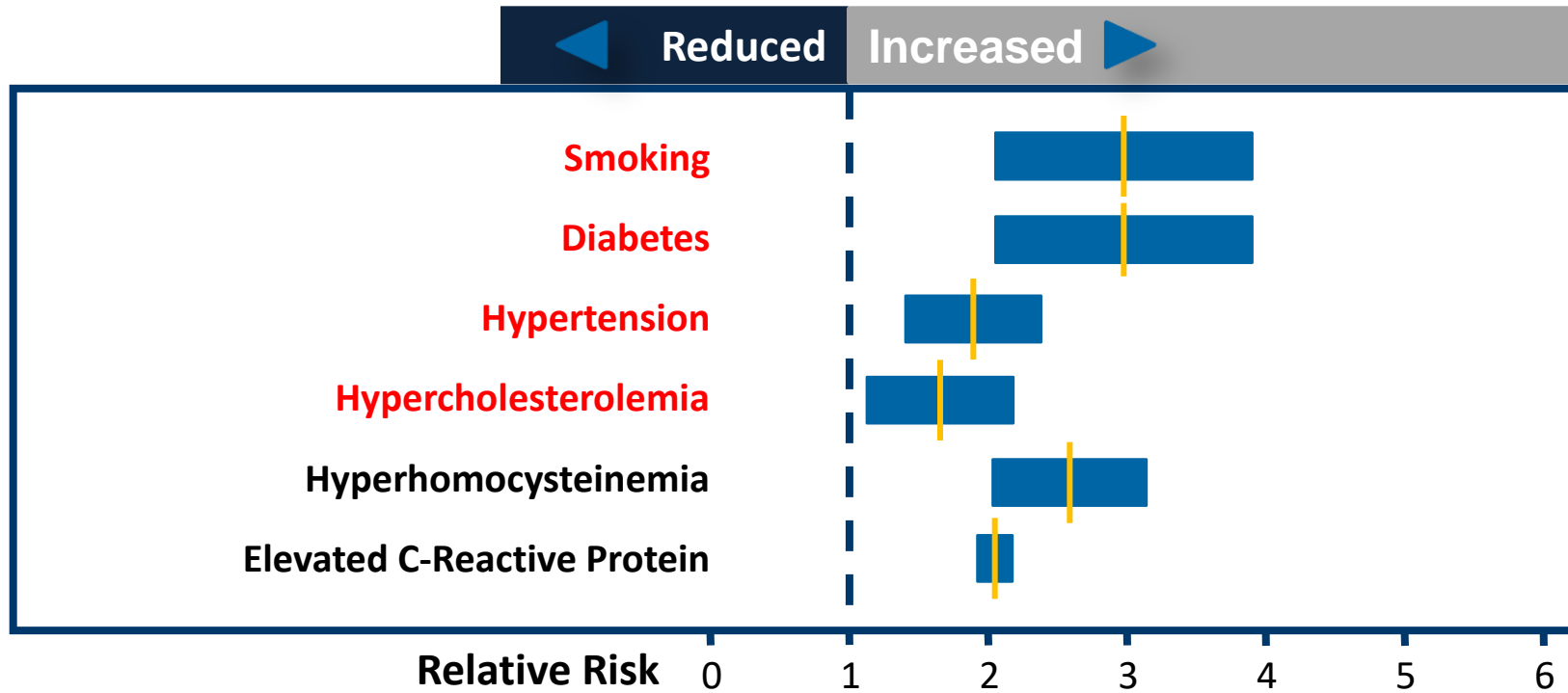


# Cardiovascular Disease Prevalence, 2013



GBD Study 2013 Collaborators, Lancet 2015;386(9995):743-800

# Risk Factors for PAD



# Clinical Presentation

- Asymptomatic 20-50 %
- Atypical leg pain 40-50 %
- Classic claudication 10-35 %
- Critical limb ischemia 1-2 %

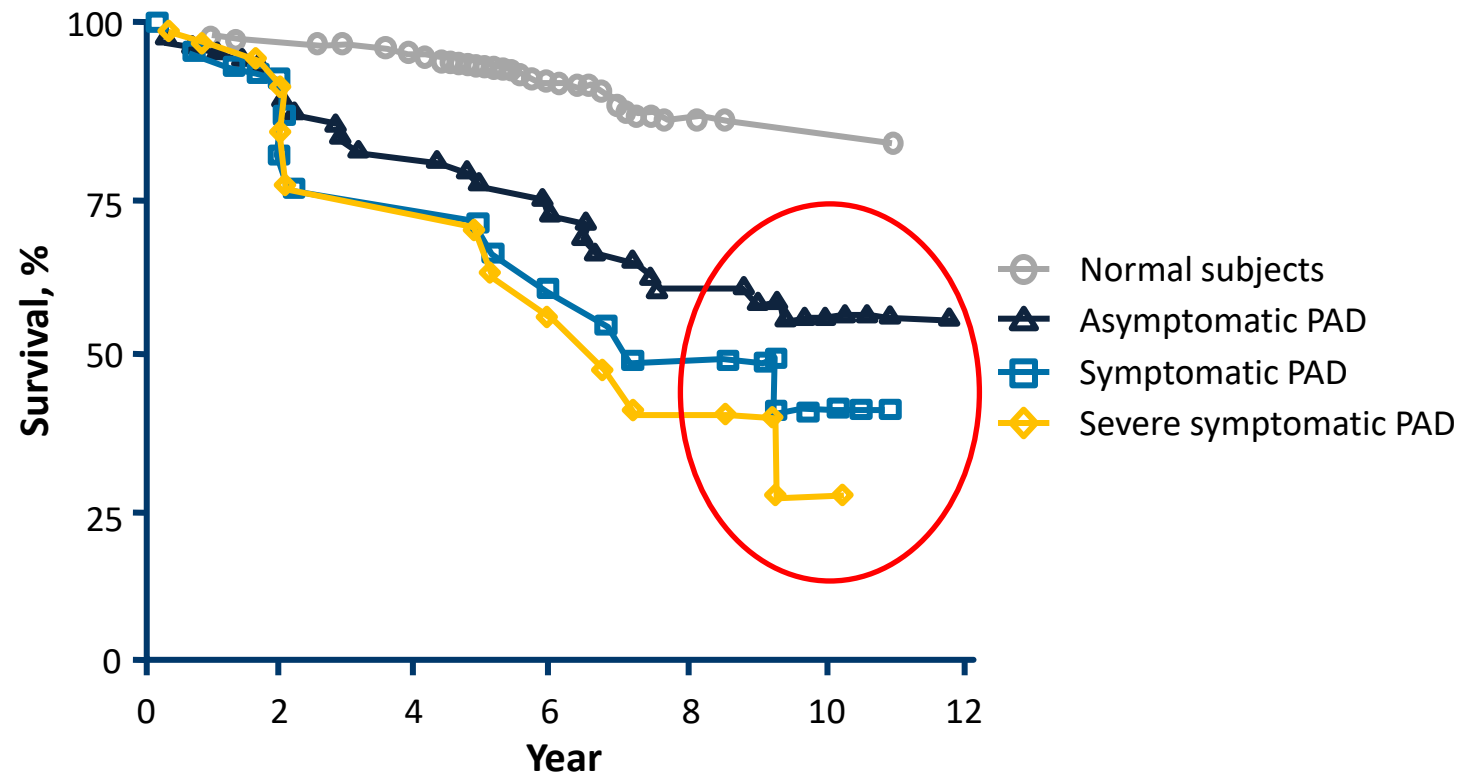
Hirsch, AT et al. ACC/AHA 2005 Practice guidelines for management of patients with PAD, Circ 2006



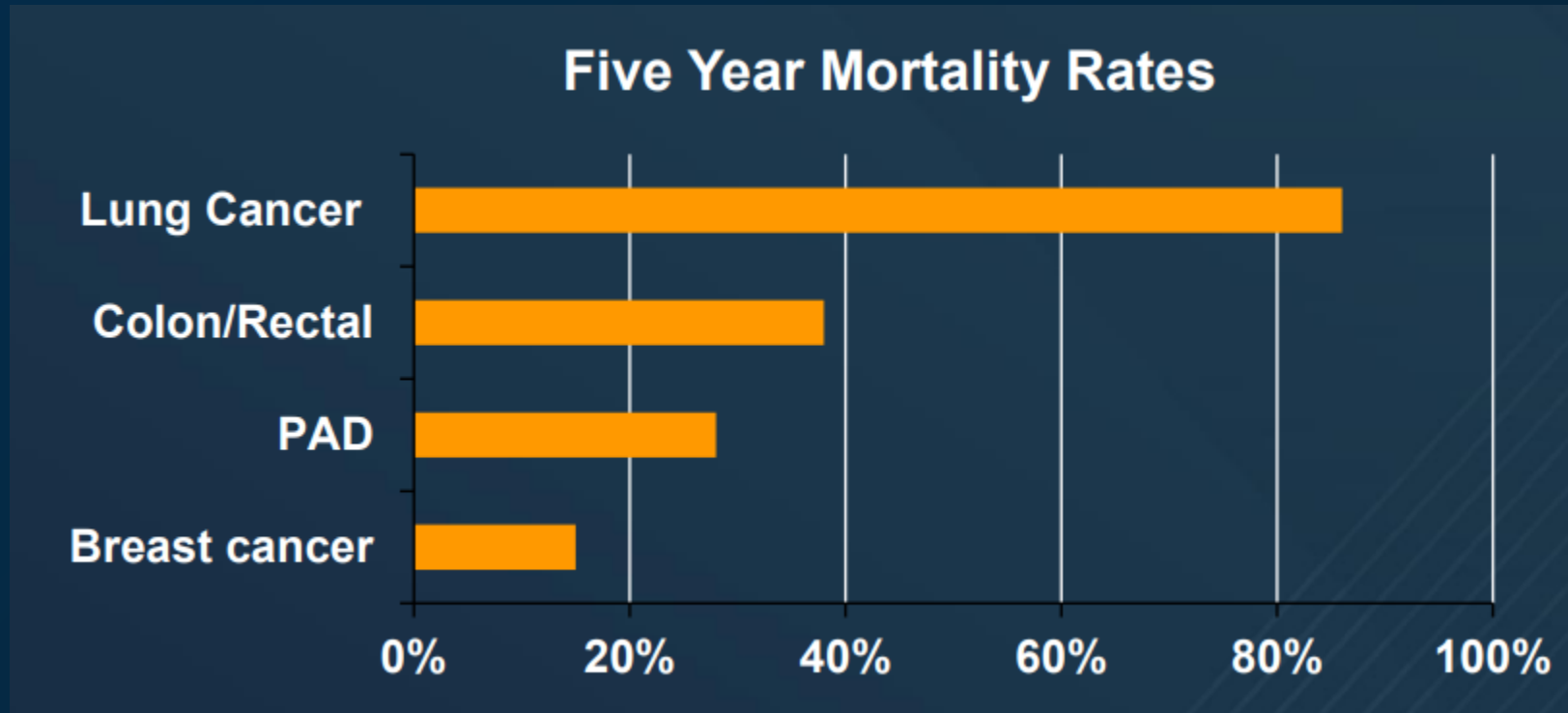
# Classification of PAD

Fontaine Stages		Rutherford Categories		
Stage	Clinical	Grade	Category	Clinical
I	Asymptomatic	0	0	Asymptomatic
IIA	Mild claudication	I	1	Mild claudication
IIB	Moderate-severe claudication	I	2	Moderate claudication
		I	3	Severe claudication
III	Ischemic rest pain	II	4	Ischemic rest pain
IV	Ulceration or gangrene	III	5	Minor tissue loss
		IV	6	Ulceration or gangrene

# 10-Year Survival Rates for Patients with PAD



# Mortality and PAD



1. Meijer WT, et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 1998;18:185-192. 2. Criqui MH, et al. Circulation. 1985;71:510-515.



# PAD ANNUAL ECONOMIC BURDEN\*

\$223<sup>†</sup>-\$414<sup>‡</sup> BILLION

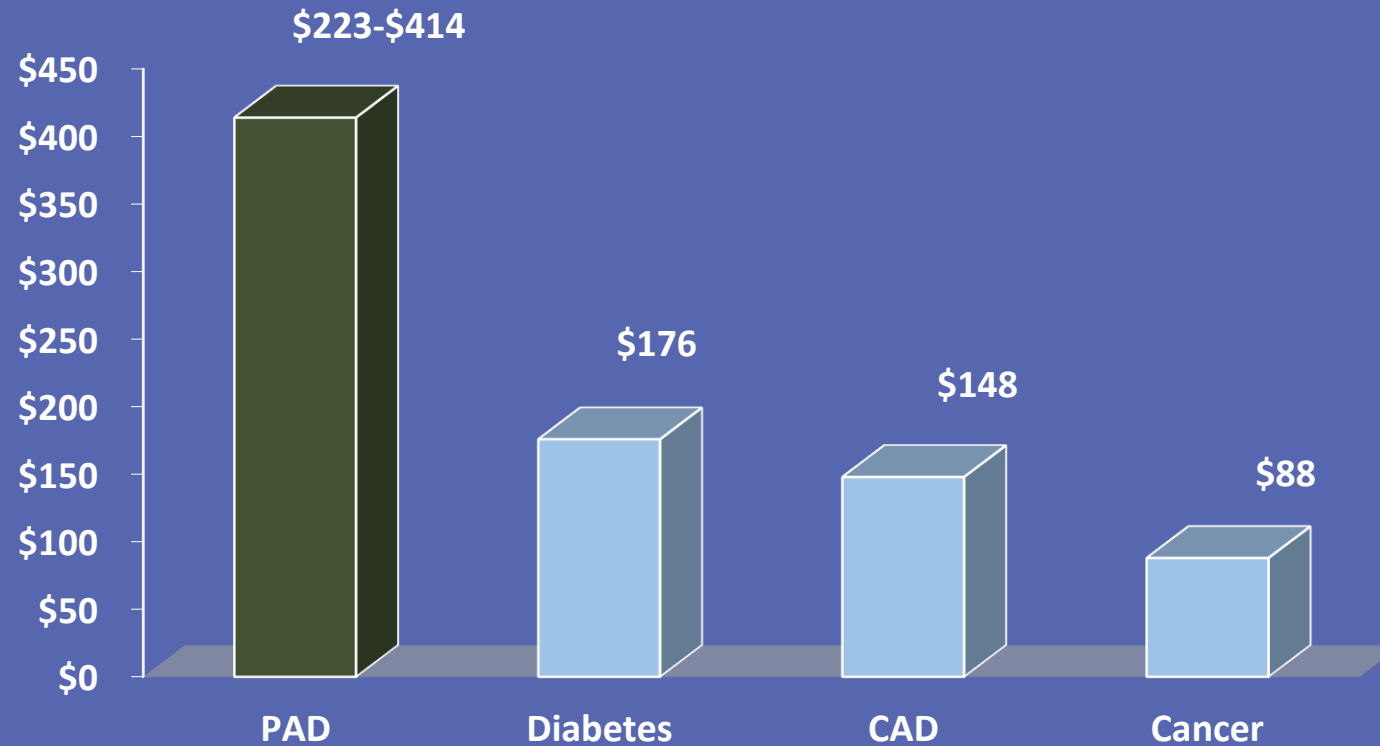
<sup>†</sup>U.S. REACH population inpatient costs + outpatient medication = \$11,280 X 19.8 Mil PAD in 2015

<sup>‡</sup>Margolis managed care population all-cause hospitalizations + medications + other =  
\$20,895 x 19.8 Mil PAD. Per pt. costs in 2015 \$.

Source: Mahoney EM. Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes 2008;1:38-45, Margolis J. J Manag Care Pharm 2005; 11(9): 727-24 and Yost ML. Real cost of PAD 2011 THE SAGE GROUP.

# 2015 ANNUAL ECONOMIC BURDEN\*

(Billions \$)



\*Direct costs in the United States: PAD & CAD costs inflated to 2015 \$. Direct cost of diabetes is 2012 and cancer 2014.

Source: Yost ML. Real cost of PAD 2011 THE SAGE GROUP, Mahoney EM. Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes 2008;1:38-45, American Cancer Society website and ADA Diabetes Care 2013;36(4):1033-46.

# Why Fear PAD ?

- Similar characteristics of any **CANCER**
  - Progressive.
  - Asymptomatic.
  - When identified – usually too late.
  - Significant morbidity/mortality.
  - Extremely prevalent and numbers are only on the rise:
    - Aging population.
    - Increasing diabetic population ( > 30-50% of population by 2050)

***IF YOU HAVE A CANCER YOU NEED TO SCREEN PATIENTS AND IDENTIFY THOSE AT RISK – Pap smear, CXR, and mammography.***

# Why Fear PAD ?

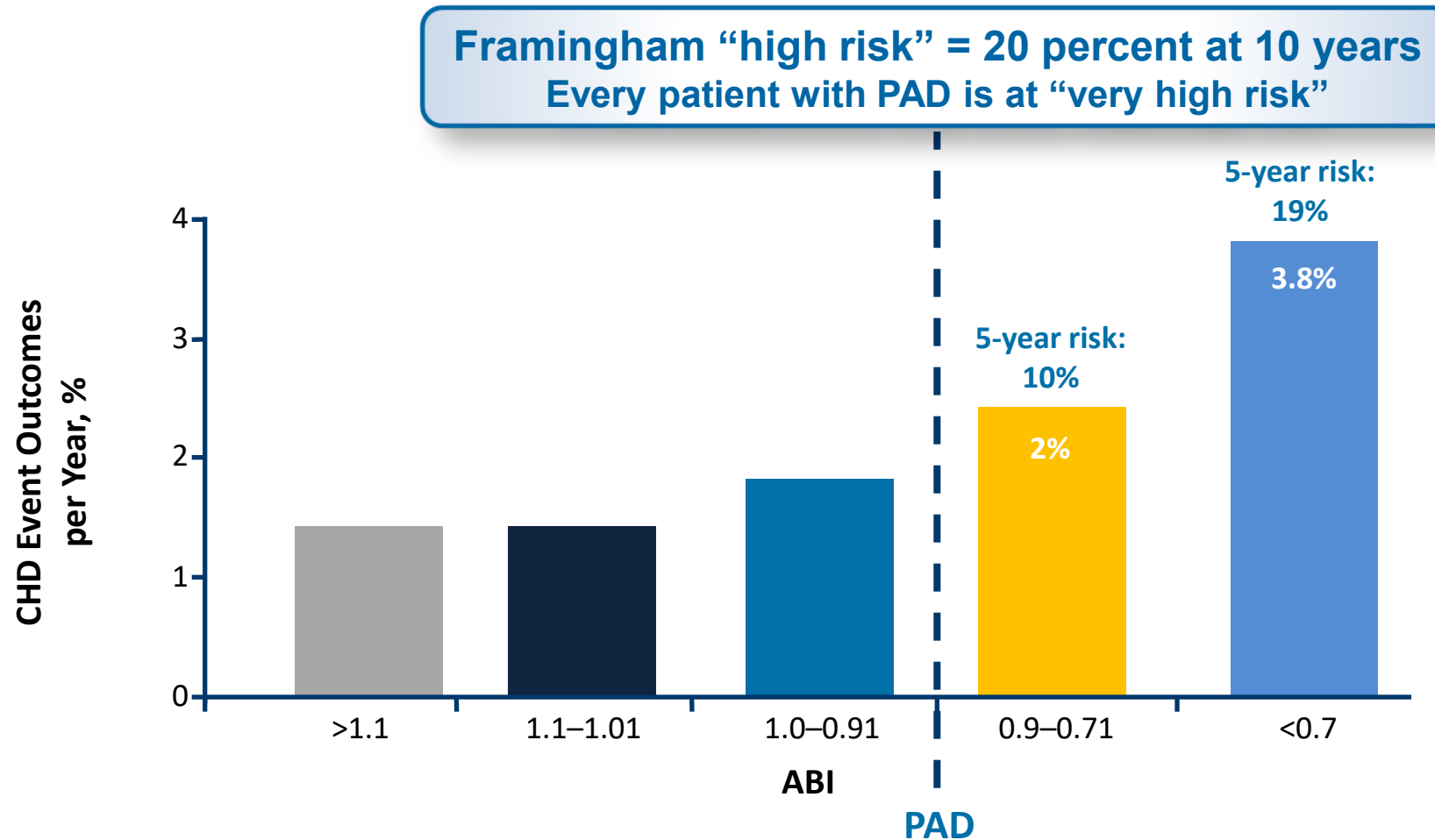
We know PAD patients exist – ALL the prevalence data supports such a claim.

PAD is currently our new number one cardiovascular challenge SO why are we behind ?

*“THE PATIENT NEEDS TO BE EXTRAPOLATED – THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY PATIENT-SPECIFIC POPULATION SCREENING AND PROMOTING AWARENESS TO PHYSICIANS, HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATORS, AND COMMUNITY”*



# Cardiovascular Risk Increases with Decreases in ABI



Fatal or nonfatal MI.

CHD=coronary heart disease (chronic heart failure).

Leng G et al. Use of ankle brachial pressure index to predict cardiovascular events and death: a cohort study. *Brit Med J.* 1996;313:1440-1444.

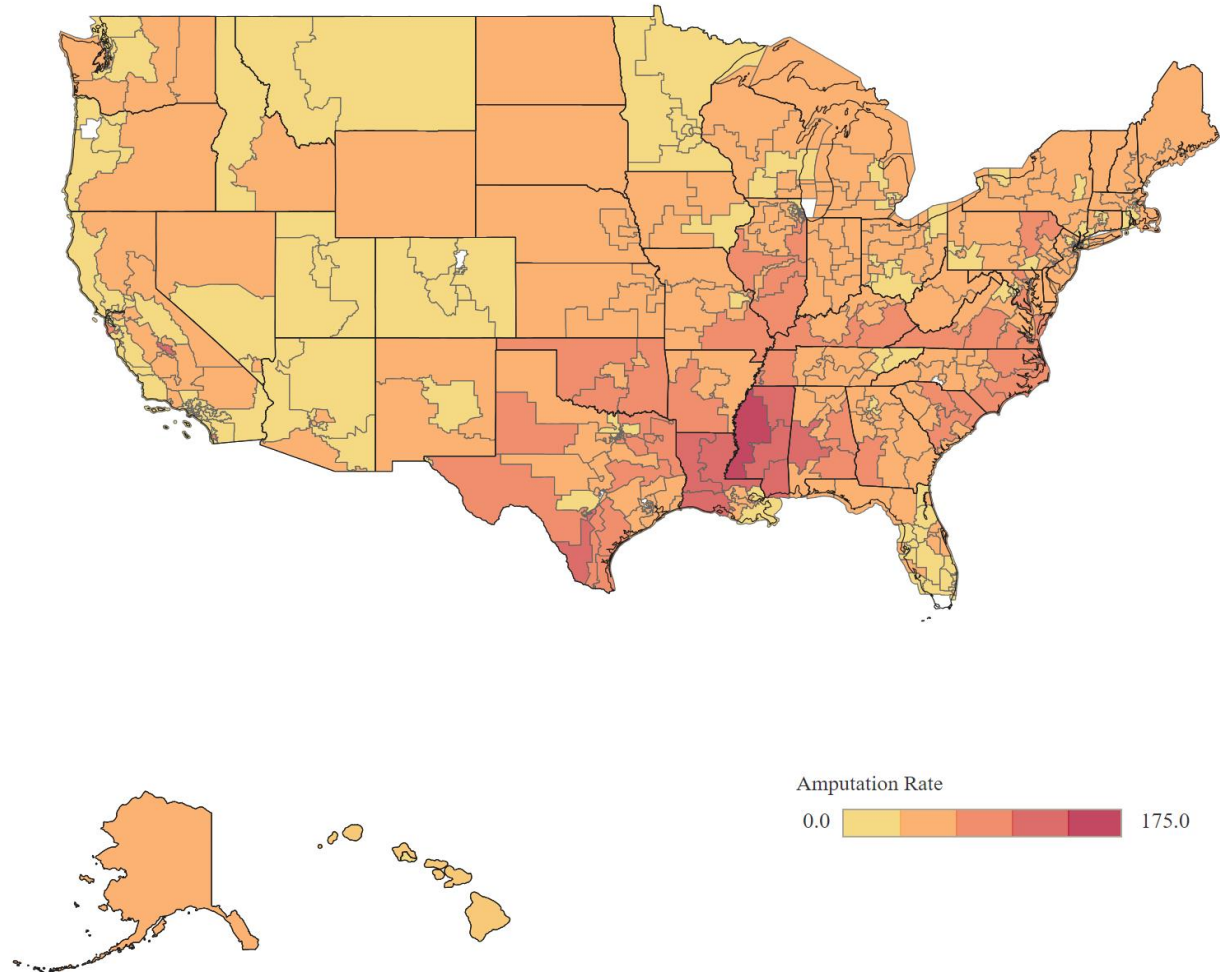
# PAD: Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (HEDI) Nightmare

- Racial Disparities.
- Sex Disparities.
- Rural vs Urban Disparities – Access to care issue(s).
- “Territorial-ism” – 4 different practice disciplines managing the patient.
- Lack of diversity in clinical trails
- Lack of “Shared Decision Making” tools.

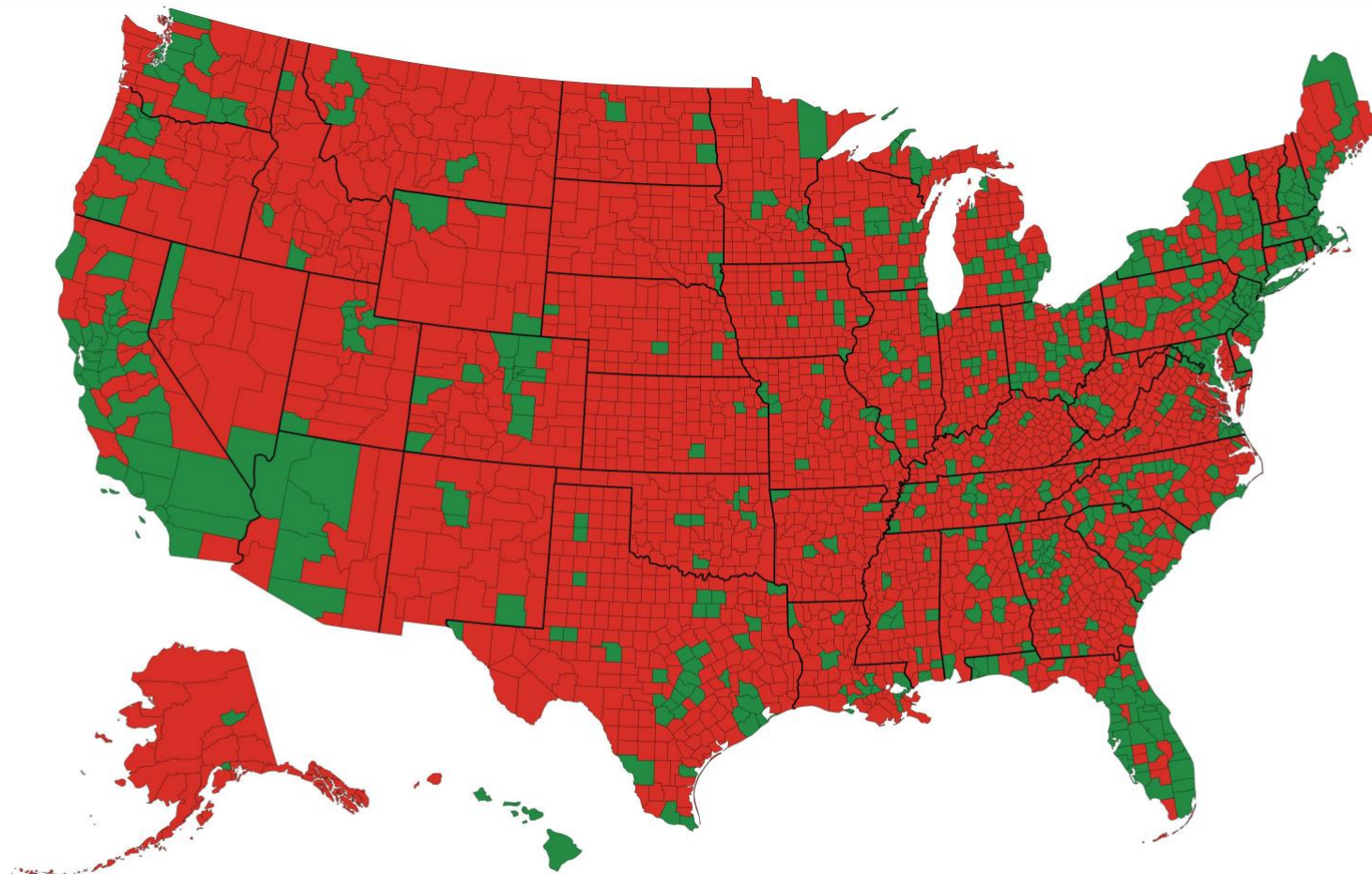
# **Provider Workforce Shortages within the Vascular and Endovascular Space**

**Interventional Cardiologists, Interventional Radiologists, and Vascular Surgeons.**

# The Amputation Heat Map for the United States







**Medicare PFS Cuts to Vascular  
Surgery Since 2006 are -29%**

- Counties with at least one Vascular Surgeon
- Counties with no Vascular Surgeon



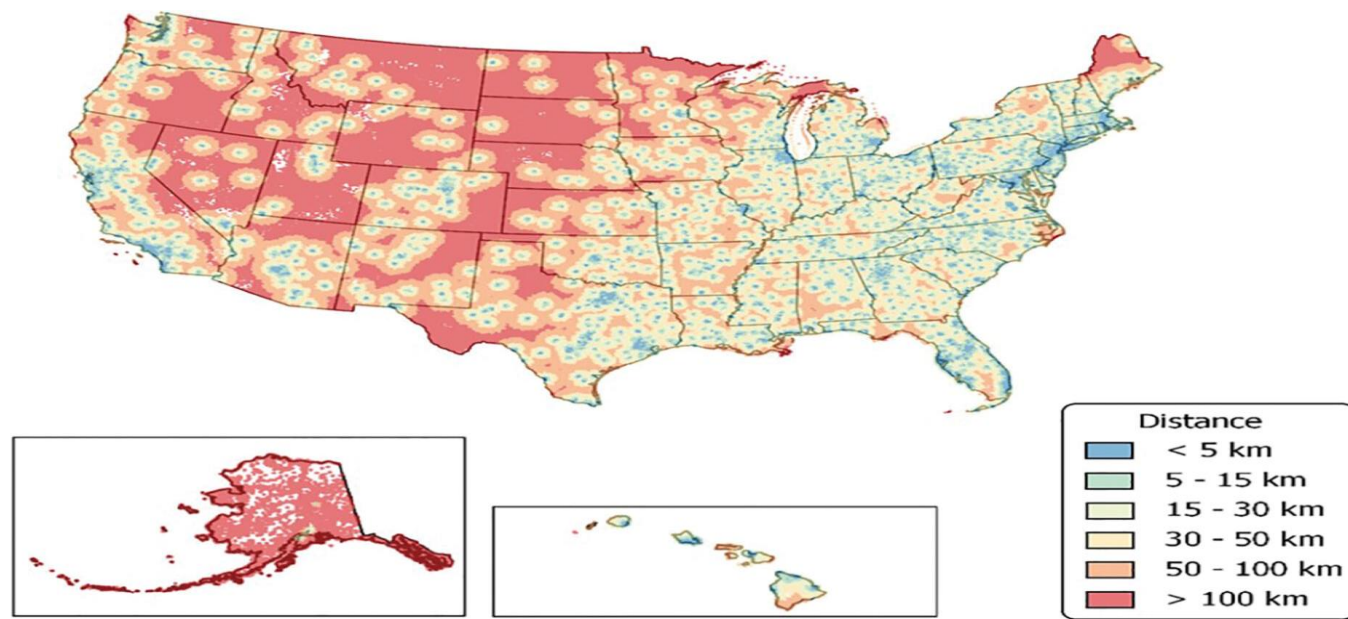
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## Characterizing the geographic distribution of vascular surgeons in the United States

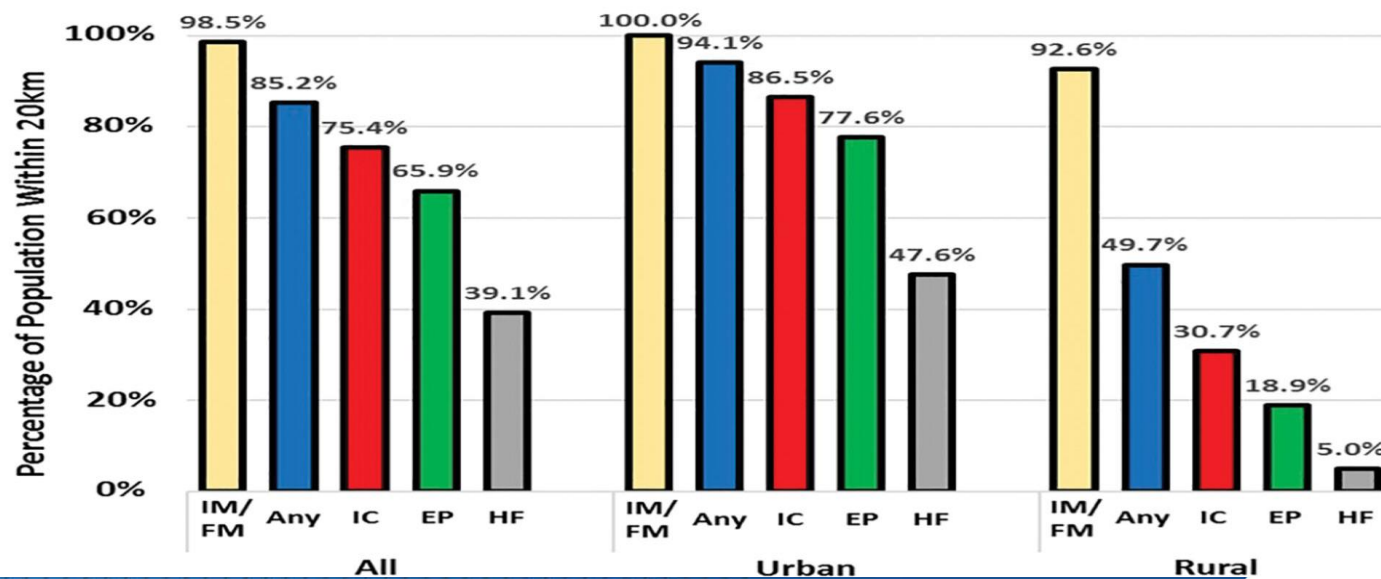
Vamsi K. Potluri, MD,<sup>a</sup> Josh L. Bilello, MD,<sup>a</sup> Shaunak G. Patel, MD,<sup>b</sup> Silpa Yarra, MD, MPH,<sup>a</sup>  
Mellick T. Sykes, MD, FACS,<sup>a</sup> and Michael B. Silva Jr, MD, FACS,<sup>a</sup> *Galveston, TX; and New York, NY*

**Results:** In 2018, the U.S. population was 309.8 million, and there were 3145 counties. Of the 3145 counties, 533 (17%) had had a practicing vascular surgeon. The combined population of these counties was 213.8 million people (69% of the U.S. population). Stratified by age, the vascular surgeons in these 533 counties could treat 37.3 million people aged >50 years and 17.4 million people aged >65 years. However, 2612 counties (83%), with a total population of 96 million people (31% of the U.S. population), had had no practicing vascular surgeon. When stratified by age, 78.1 million people in the uncovered counties were aged >50 years and 35 million were aged >65 years. Of the 2612 uncovered counties, 48% were urban and 24% were rural.

**A**



**B**



Issam Motairek. Circulation:  
Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes.  
Mapping Geographic Proximity to  
Cardiologists Across the United States,  
Volume: 16, Issue: 10, Pages: e010133,  
DOI:  
(10.1161/CIRCOUTCOMES.123.010133)



# Interventional radiologists are few and far between in the U.S.

Will Morton

Nov 2, 2023



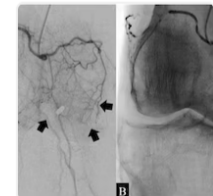
Interventional radiologists are disproportionately distributed in the U.S, with higher densities practicing near urban areas, according to a study published October 30 in the *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology*.

“Almost 31.2% of the United States population does not have access to an interventional radiologist, however, many patients would prefer minimally invasive care,” wrote first author Yusuf Ahmad, a student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA, and colleagues.

## Latest in Interventional

**New procedure shows promise reducing knee osteoarthritis pain**

DECEMBER 20, 2023



**Thrombectomy use increasing to treat VTE**

DECEMBER 5, 2023





# PAD Awareness – 59% among total sample

Black Americans, who are at greatest risk, are least aware of PAD



Black Americans are significantly less aware of PAD:

45% Black  
53% Hispanic  
66% White

Aware of PAD

*Which of the following conditions have you heard of? (select all that apply)*

# AMPUTATION LOTTERY

Amputation lottery substantially depends on who you are and where you live

Amputations varies by Race, Socioeconomic status, hospital volume, operator skill set, and geographic location.

# AMPUTATION PATIENT OUTCOMES

Discharge status: Only 11%-24% go home routinely,

Majority (73%) go to another institution (skilled nursing facility, rehabilitation)

In-hospital mortality: 3.4%

Ambulation: 60%-80% cannot walk

Mortality (2-year): 30%-50% (frequently MI)

Contralateral amputation: 36%-50%

Allie DE. *Eurointervention*. 2005;1(1):60-69,. Belmont PJ. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2011;213:370-378, Dillingham TR. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 2005;86:480-486, AHRQ. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project. HCUP Query Outcomes 84.14-84.17, Dillingham TR. *PMR*. 2011;3(4):336-344, Dormandy JA. *J Vasc Surg*. 2000;31(Suppl):S1-S296. Jackson. Slide presentation at Vascular Annual Meeting, 2011, Jencks SF. *N Engl J Med*. 2009;360:1418-1428, Norgren L. *J Vasc Surg*. 2007;45(suppl):S1-S67, Yeager RA. *Rutherford. Vascular Surgery*. 2005:2474-2481, Subramaniam B. *Anesth Analg*. 2005;100:1241-1247, Gardner SJ. *Endovascular Today* 2011;10(8):38-44 and Yost. *Endovascular Today*, 2014.

# AMPUTATION: MORE PATIENT OUTCOMES

## Lengthy healing process

At 100 days, 45% BKA and 24% AKA not healed

## Quality of life reduced

Severe physical impairment in ambulation, body care, movement, and mobility

## Chronic pain 95%

Phantom limb pain: 79%-80%

Residual limb pain: 68%-74%

Back pain: 52%-62%

Source: Nehler MR. J Vasc Surg. 2003;38(1):7-14, Peters EJG. Diabetes Care. 2001;24(10):1799-1804, Ephraim PL. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2005;86:1910-1919, Ehde DM. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2000;81:1039-1044





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2024

# ACC/AHA/AACVPR/APMA/ABC/SCAI/SVM/S VN/SVS/SIR/VESS Guideline for the Management of Lower Extremity Peripheral Artery Disease

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A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint  
Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines

*Developed in Collaboration With and Endorsed by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, American Podiatric Medical Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society for Vascular Medicine, Society for Vascular Nursing, Society for Vascular Surgery, Society of Interventional Radiology, and Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society*

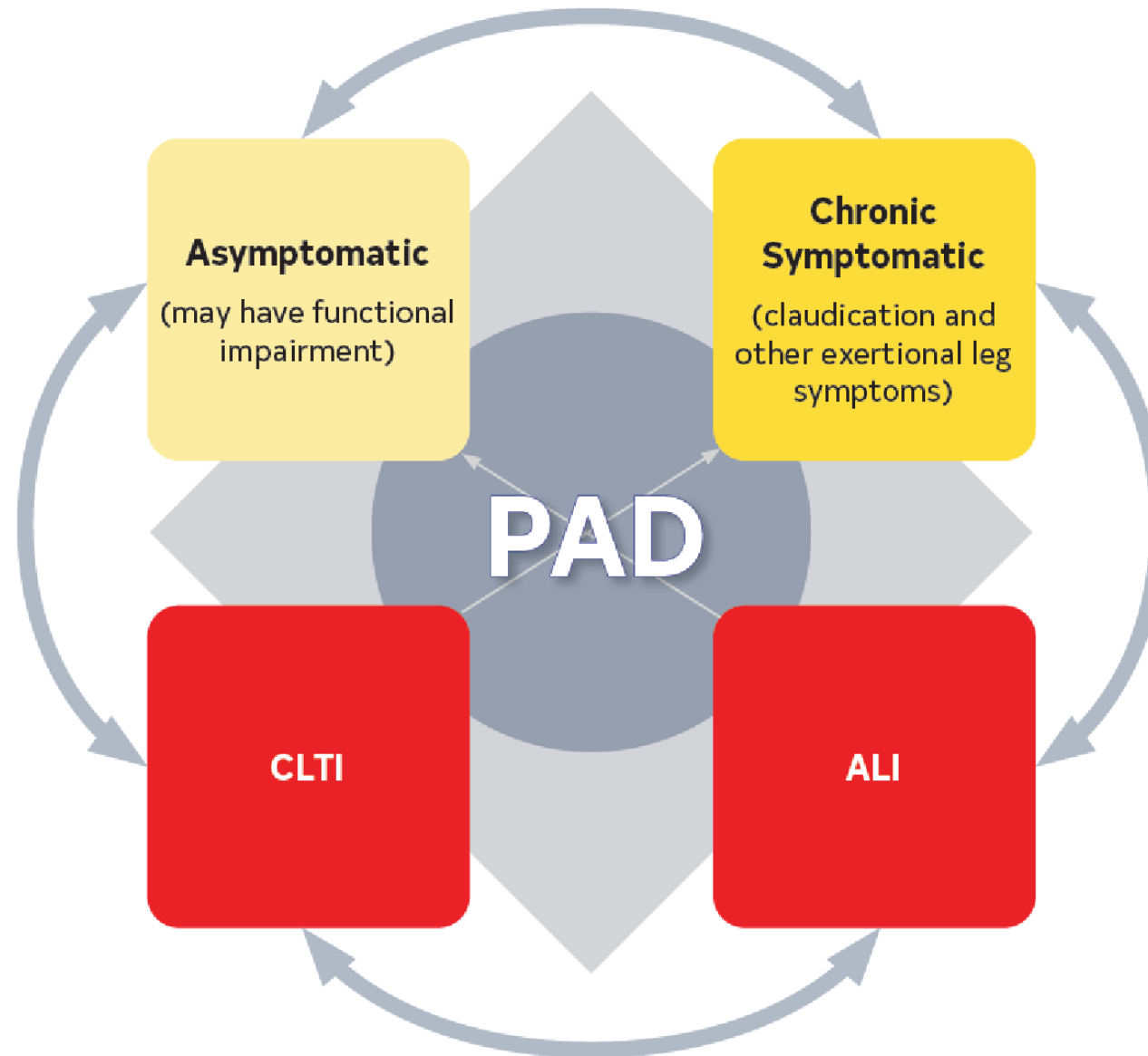
# Top 10 Take Home Messages

1. Peripheral artery disease (PAD) is a common cardiovascular disease associated with increased risk of amputation, myocardial infarction, stroke, and death, as well as impaired quality of life, walking performance, and functional status.
2. This guideline defines 4 clinical subsets of PAD:
  - Asymptomatic PAD (may have functional impairment)
  - Chronic symptomatic PAD (including claudication),
  - Chronic limb-threatening ischemia, and
  - Acute limb ischemia.
3. Detection of PAD in most patients is accomplished through the history, examination, and the resting ankle-brachial index.
4. Health disparities in PAD are associated with poor limb and cardiovascular outcomes and must be addressed at the individual patient and population levels, with interventions coordinated between multiple stakeholders across the cardiovascular community and public health infrastructure.
5. Effective medical therapies for patients with PAD should be prescribed to prevent major adverse cardiovascular events and major adverse limb events for patients with PAD, including antiplatelet (generally single antiplatelet) and antithrombotic therapy, lipid-lowering (ie, high-intensity statin) and antihypertensive therapy, management of diabetes, and smoking cessation. Rivaroxaban (2.5 mg twice daily) combined with low-dose aspirin (81 mg daily) is effective to prevent major adverse cardiovascular events and major adverse limb events in patients with PAD who are not at increased risk of bleeding.
6. Structured exercise is a core component of care for patients with PAD. It includes supervised exercise therapy and community-based (including structured home-based) programs.

# Top 10 Take Home Messages

7. Revascularization (endovascular, surgical, or hybrid) should be used to prevent limb loss in those with chronic limb-threatening ischemia and can be used to improve quality of life and functional status in patients with claudication not responsive to medical therapy and structured exercise.
8. Care for patients with PAD, and especially those with chronic limb-threatening ischemia, is optimized when delivered by a multispecialty care team.
9. Foot care is crucial for patients with PAD across all clinical subsets and ranges from preventive care and patient education to advanced care in the setting of chronic limb-threatening ischemia. Podiatrists and other specialists with expertise in foot care, wound-healing therapies, and foot surgery are important members of the multispecialty care team.
10. The PAD National Action Plan outlines 6 strategic goals to improve awareness, detection, and treatment of PAD nationwide. Implementation of this action plan is recognized as a top advocacy priority by the writing committee.

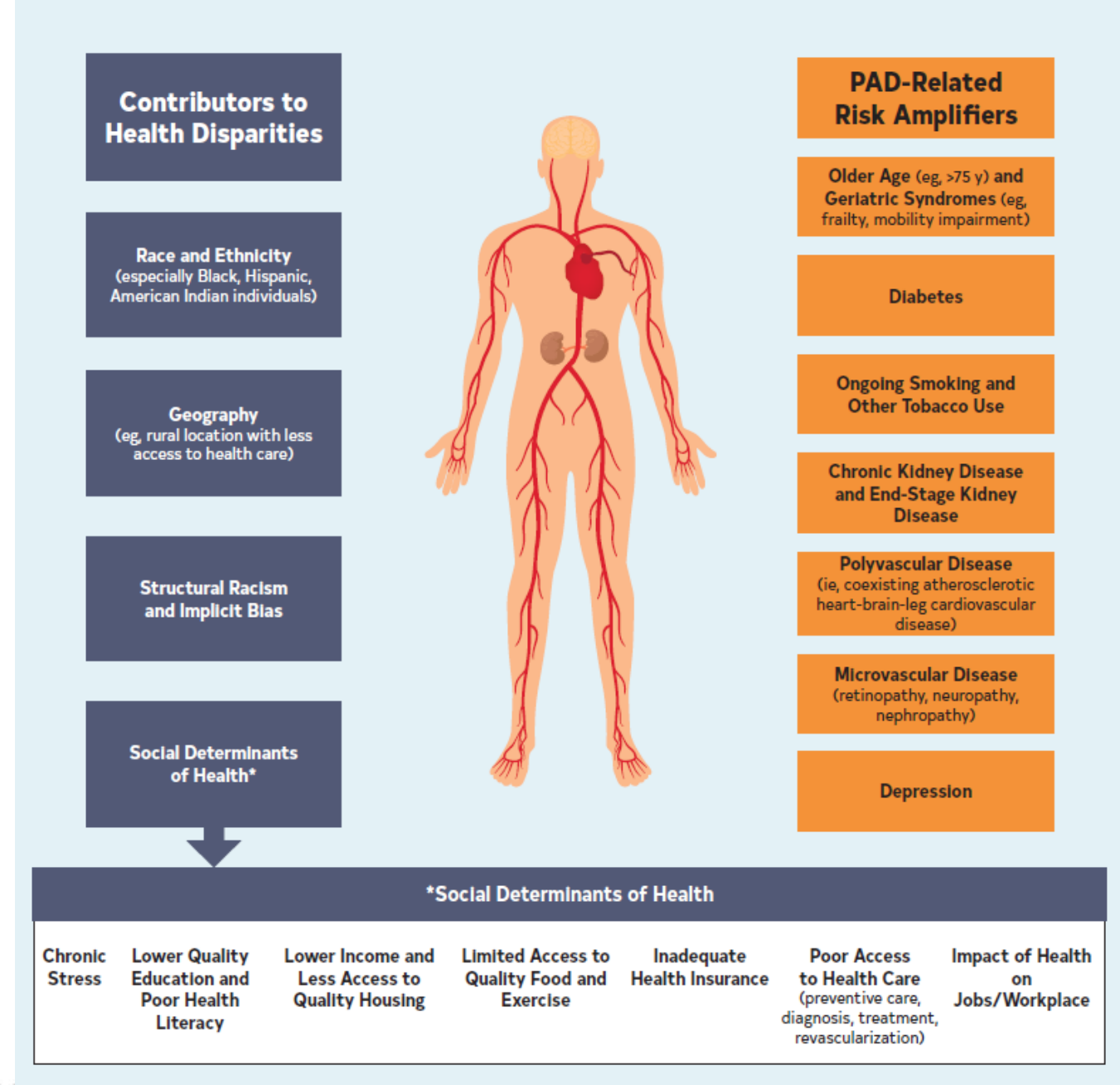
**Figure 1. Clinical Subsets of PAD.**



ALI indicates acute limb ischemia; CLTI, chronic limb-threatening ischemia; and PAD, peripheral artery disease.

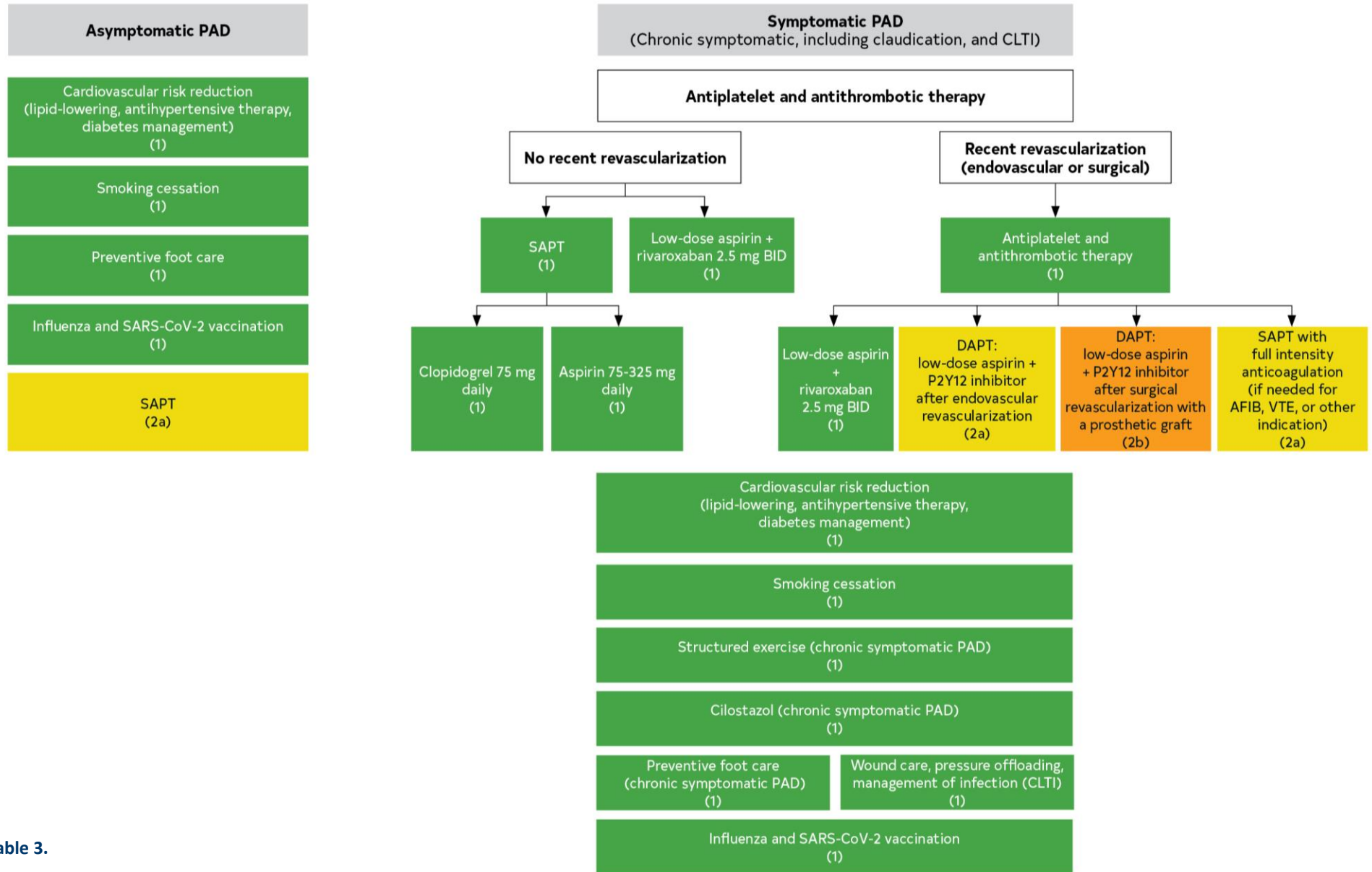
**Figure 3. Health Disparities and PAD-Related Risk Amplifiers Increase Risk of MACE and MALE.**

MACE indicates major adverse cardiovascular events; MALE, major adverse limb events; and PAD, peripheral artery disease.



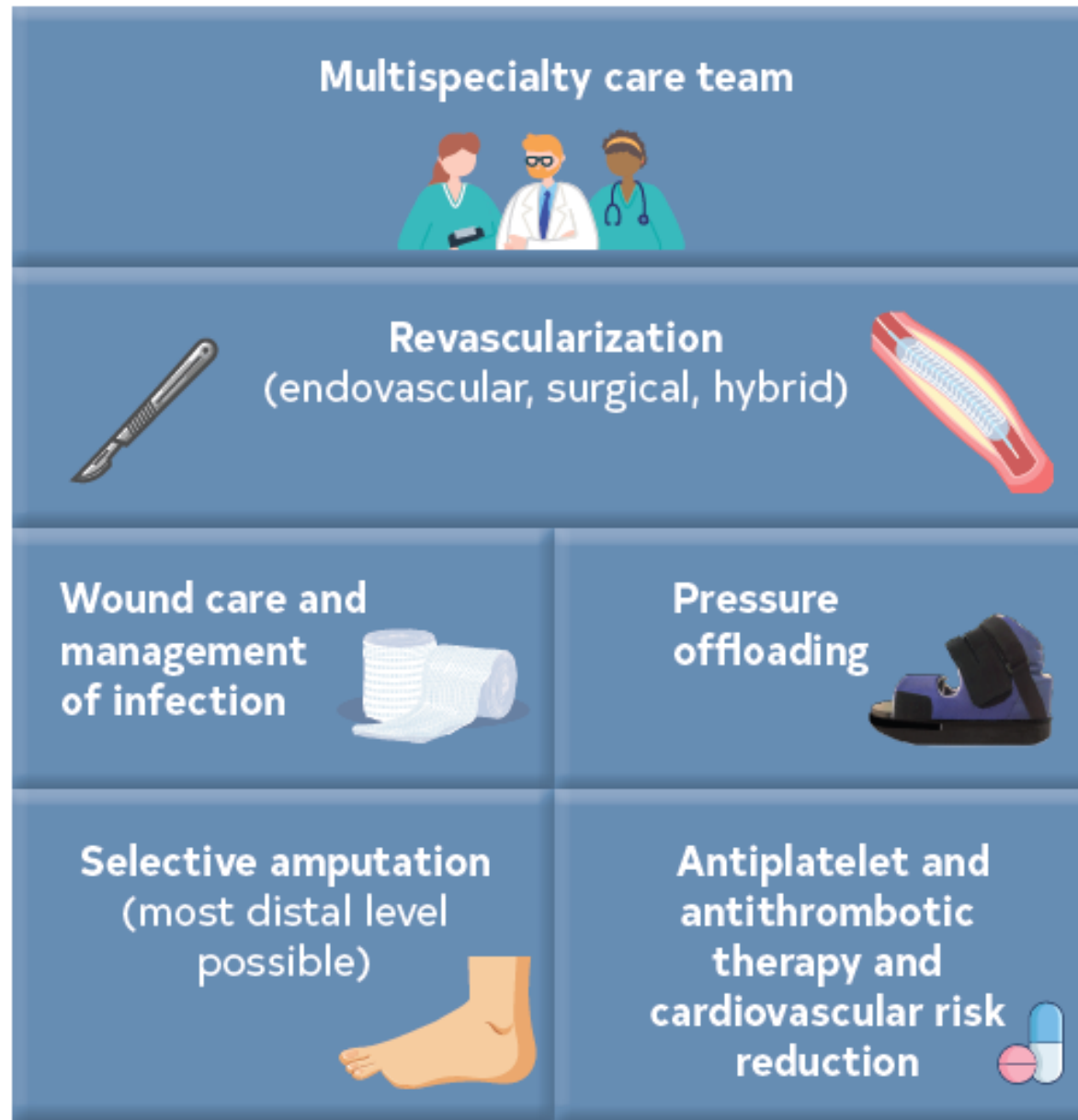


**Figure 4.**  
**Medical**  
**Therapy**  
**and Foot**  
**Care for**  
**PAD.**



Colors correspond to Table 3.

**Figure 6.**  
**Components of**  
**Care for CLTI.**



CLTI indicates chronic limb-threatening ischemia.

# Health Equity

Lifestyle, Function, Smoking Cessation, Foot care,  
Influenza & COVID vaccination  
 (exercise, diet, cilostazol)

## Rx for Diabetes

2016  
Glycemic  
targets

GLP1 agonists,  
SGLT inhibitors for  
MACE / HF / CKD  
--  
Glycemic targets  
for microvascular  
disease

## Blood Pressure

2016  
Goal <130 /  
<80 mmHg  
w/ ACEi

2016  
Antihypertensive  
Therapy for MACE  
/ HF risk reduction

## Antithrombotics

2016  
Aspirin or  
Clopidogrel  
for MACE  
Reduction

Anti-platelet  
Therapy for MACE  
Reduction  
--  
Low dose aspirin  
and rivaroxaban  
2.5 mg twice daily  
to reduce MACE  
and MALE

## Lipid Lowering

High-intensity  
Statin therapy  
--  
If LDL-C ≥ 70  
mg/dL on  
maximally  
tolerated statin  
reasonable to add  
PCSK9i (Class 2a)

2016  
Statin  
Therapy

## *Risk Amplifiers*

Polyvascular  
Disease

Age

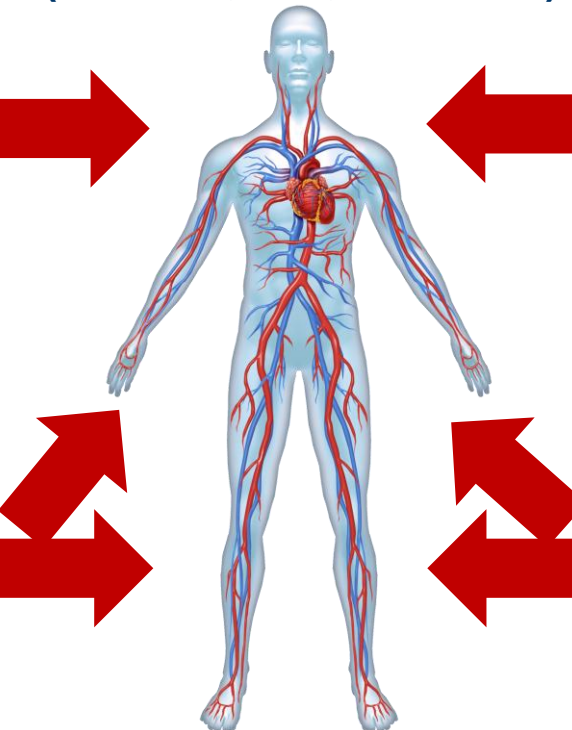
Diabetes  
Mellitus

Smoking

CKD

Prior  
Revascularization

Risk of MACE and MALE



Comprehensive team approach  
& revascularization for CLTI

Function & Quality of Life

Risk of Major Adverse Limb Events

No PAD

Functional Impairment  
(called asymptomatic PAD in GL)

Post Revascularization /  
Chronic PAD

Chronic limb-  
threatening ischemia

Acute limb  
ischemia

# “What are the Disparities and Inequities Surrounding Diagnosis, Management, Treatment, and Patient Outcomes in PAD?”

## Health Disparity

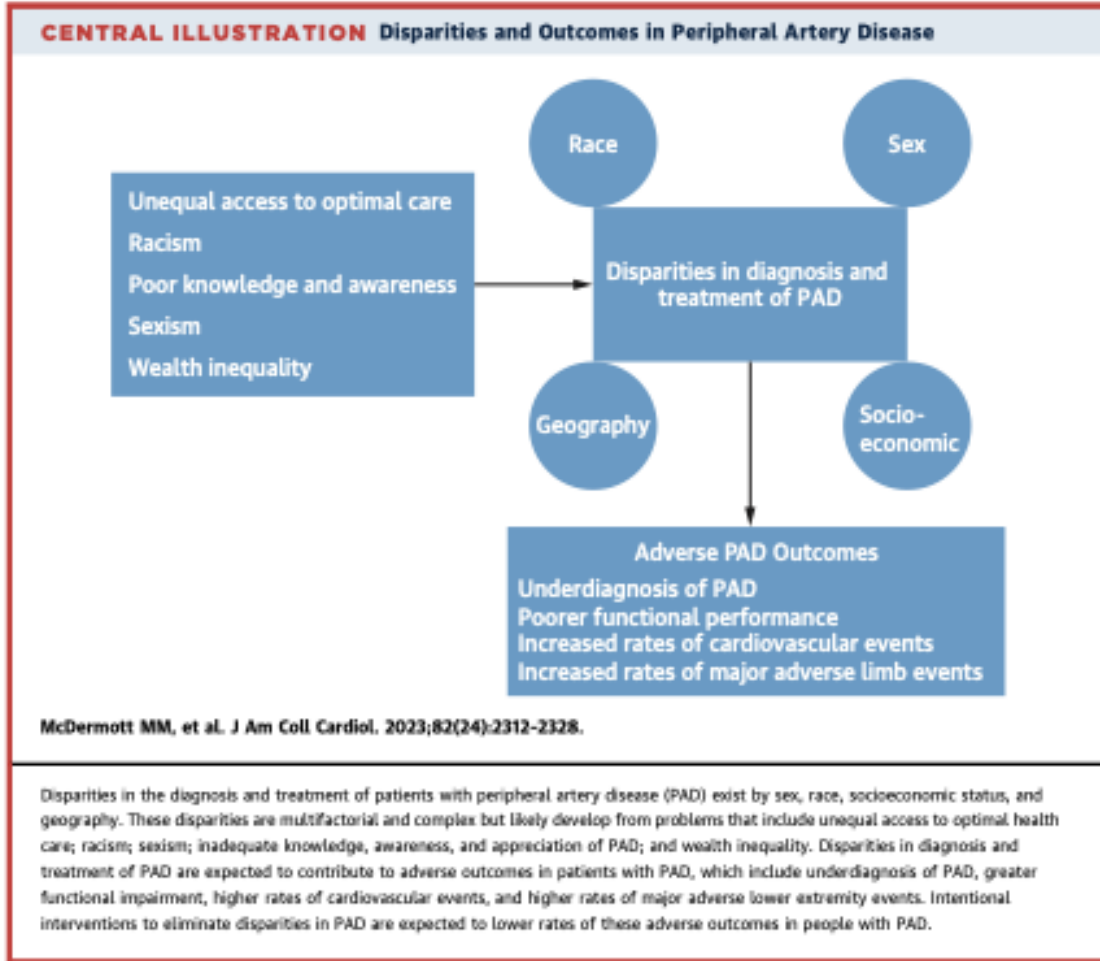
Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.

## Health Inequities

The systematic, avoidable and unfair differences in health outcomes that can be observed between populations, between social groups within the same population or as a gradient across a population ranked by social position.

McCartney G, Popham F, McMaster R, Cumbers A. Defining health and health inequalities. *Public Health*. 2019;172:22-30; Crear-Perry J, Correa-de-Araujo R, Lewis Johnson T, McLemore MR, Neilson E, Wallace M. Social and structural determinants of health inequities in maternal health. *Journal of women's health*. 2021;30(2):230-235; [Healthypeople.gov](https://www.healthypeople.gov); CDC. Community Health and Program Services (CHAPS): Health Disparities Among Racial/Ethnic Populations. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2008

# Disparities and Outcomes in PAD



Disparities develop from problems that include unequal access to optimal health care; racism; sexism; inadequate knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of PAD; and wealth inequality.

Disparities are documented by: race, sex, geography, and socioeconomic status



# Disparities in Treatment for PAD

**TABLE 1** Disparities in Guideline-Recommended Treatments for PAD

Treatment	Efficacy Evidence	Disparity Evidence by Sex, Race, or SES	Potential for Disparities Not Yet Documented
Cholesterol-lowering therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significantly reduces cardiovascular event rates compared with placebo<sup>21,25</sup></li> <li>Lower LDL cholesterol is associated with lower cardiovascular event rates<sup>21,25</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women were less likely than men to be prescribed cholesterol-lowering therapy and more likely to decline cholesterol-lowering therapy<sup>55-58</sup></li> <li>People who are Black were less likely to be prescribed statins and antiplatelet drugs than people who are not Black<sup>78,79</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased costs of newer and more potent cholesterol lowering therapies may reduce their accessibility to specific populations</li> </ul>
Smoking cessation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People who smoke have higher rates of adverse outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People who were Black and of lower SES have higher rates of cigarette smoking<sup>113,114</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poorer SES and poor access to care may reduce assistance with smoking cessation</li> </ul>
Diabetes mellitus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certain drug therapies, such as SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP1 agonists, have prevented adverse outcomes in patients with cardiovascular disease, such as PAD</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor access to healthy foods, such as grocery stores with fruits and vegetables may contribute to PAD-related disparities in people who are Black or who have lower SES</li> </ul>
Antiplatelet and antithrombotic treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antiplatelet therapy such as clopidogrel and rivaroxaban 2.5 mg twice daily plus 81 mg aspirin each reduce cardiovascular event rates in PAD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People with PAD who are Black were less likely to receive antiplatelet therapy compared with White patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of access to health care may result in lower rates of optimal antiplatelet therapy for people with PAD</li> </ul>
Supervised walking exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved treadmill walking performance compared with control; improves 6-minute walk distance by approximately 25-35 m<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficacy is similar between men and women and between people who are Black and not Black<sup>64</sup></li> <li>Women were less likely than men to participate in CMS-covered supervised exercise<sup>82</sup></li> <li>Black patients were less likely to participate in CMS-covered supervised exercise<sup>66</sup></li> <li>People with PAD who were Black and those of lower SES were more likely to report that the \$11 copay per exercise session was a barrier to participation<sup>82</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of availability of supervised exercise facilities in urban and rural areas</li> </ul>
Home-based walking exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improves 6-minute walk distance by approximately 45-55 m compared with control<sup>64,107</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficacy is similar between men and women and between people who are Black and those who are not Black<sup>65,66</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structured home-based walking exercise is not widely available in the United States, and evidence regarding disparities in access is not available</li> </ul>

CMS = Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; GLP-1 = glucagon-like peptide-1; LDL = low-density lipoprotein; PAD = peripheral artery disease; SES = socioeconomic status; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

Women (particularly Black women) are less likely to receive RX for cholesterol-lowering therapy

Black patients are less likely to receive antiplatelet therapy compared to White patients.

Black patients and women are less likely to participate in CMS-covered supervised exercise therapy (SET)

Persistent variability by race, sex and geographic region for surgical intervention

McDermott MM, Ho KJ, Alabi O, et al. Disparities in Diagnosis, Treatment, and Outcomes of Peripheral Artery Disease: JACC Scientific Statement. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 2023;82(24):2312-2328.

# Disparities in Amputation Rates

**TABLE 3** Disparities in Amputation Rates in the United States

Group	Summary of Evidence
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In some studies, male sex has been associated with higher amputation rates</li></ul>
Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black race has been consistently associated with higher amputation rates compared with White race among people with PAD</li><li>• People with PAD who are Hispanic or Native American have higher rates of amputation compared with people who are White</li></ul>
Socioeconomic status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amputation rates are significantly higher in people with lower income compared with people with higher income</li></ul>
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geographic differences in amputation rates are well documented, with high amputation rates occurring in the southeastern region of the United States</li></ul>

PAD = peripheral artery disease.

Black and Native Americans, and Hispanics have ↑ amputation rates compared with people who are White.

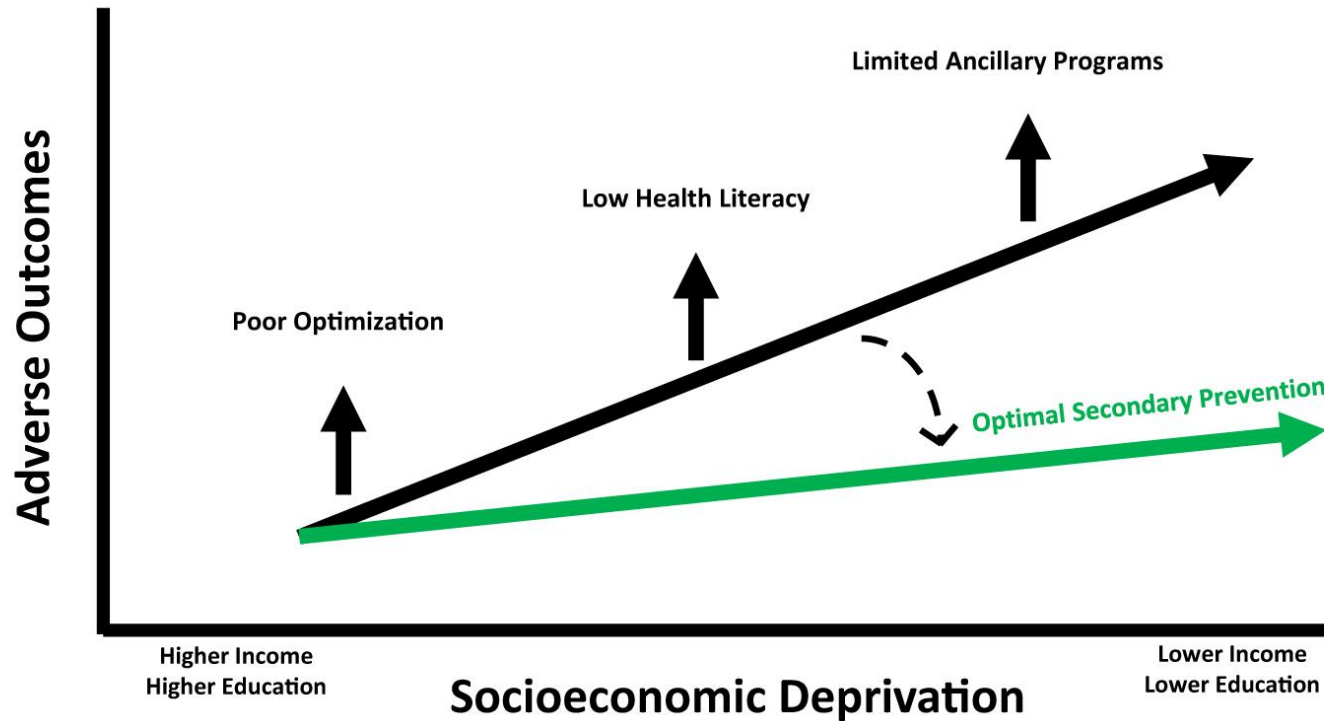
Amputation rates are ↑ in people with ↓  than people with ↑ 

Geographic distance is highly correlated with amputation rates.

McDermott MM, Ho KJ, Alabi O, et al. Disparities in Diagnosis, Treatment, and Outcomes of Peripheral Artery Disease: JACC Scientific Statement. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 2023;82(24):2312-2328.

# Social Deprivation and PAD

## Secondary Prevention of PAD: Relationship Between Adverse Outcomes and Socioeconomic Deprivation



Populations of low socioeconomic status appear to be at increased risk for the development of peripheral artery disease

Increased prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors (eg, cigarette smoking) and decreased access to care.

Nash D, McClure G, Mastracci TM, Anand SS. Social deprivation and peripheral artery disease. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*. 2022;38(5):612-622.

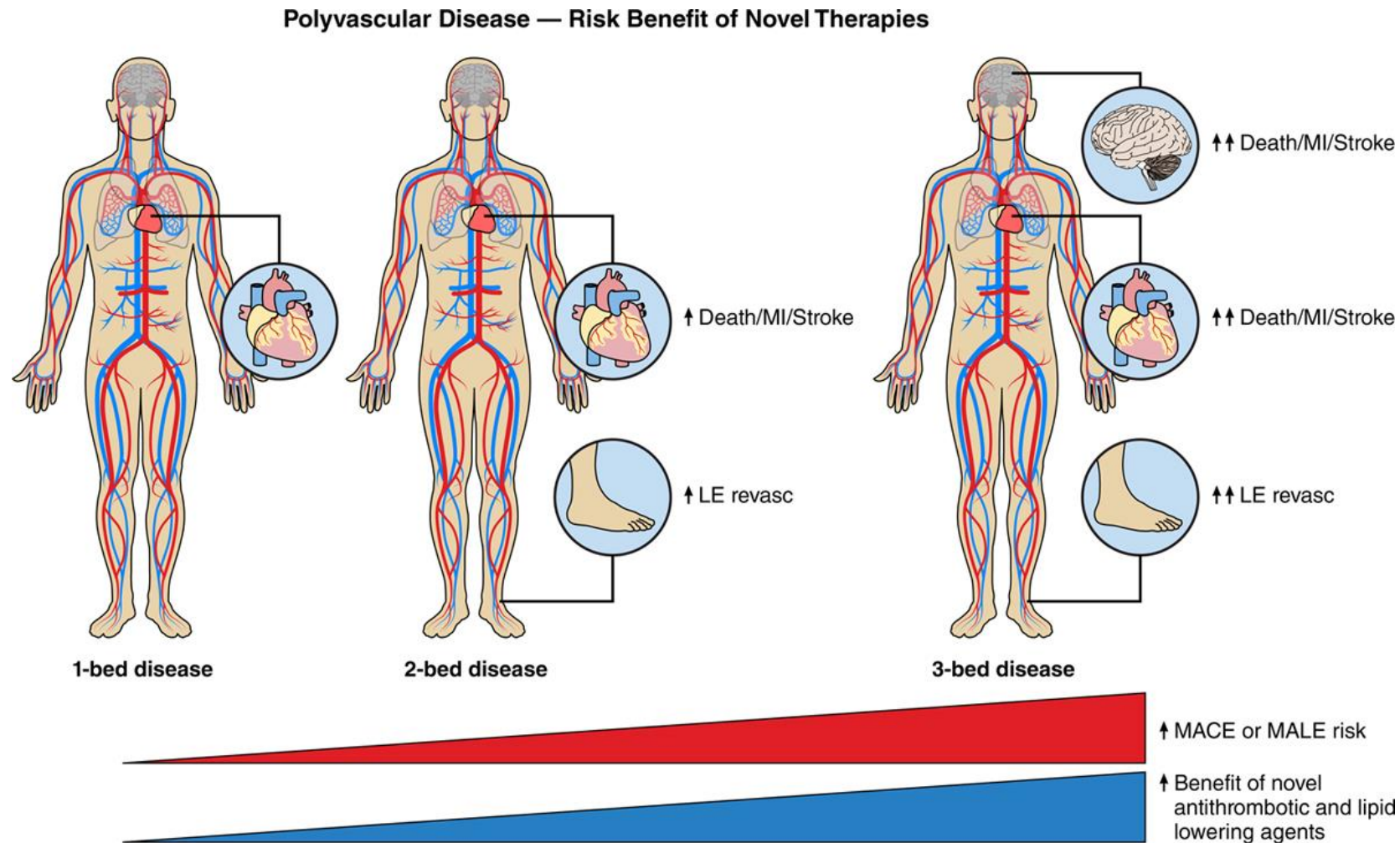


# Overcoming Disparities and Inequities



- Racial disparities are present in PAD and under-researched
- Noted “barriers” are complex and larger than a clinical solution alone
- Intentional recruitment (over sampling) of minoritized populations
- Inclusion of racial demographics (and between group differences) in data reporting
- Leverage implementation science to identify and address both clinical and patient related barriers to care
- Move *outside* of the clinic for solutions (explore other fields)

# The Implications of (Poly)Vascular Disease

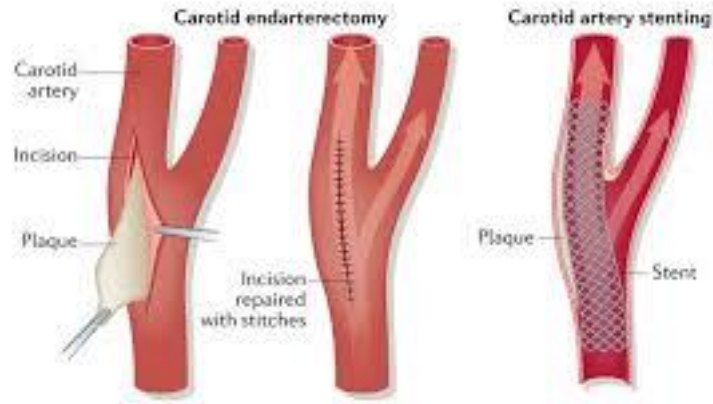


Gutierrez JA et al. Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions 2019.

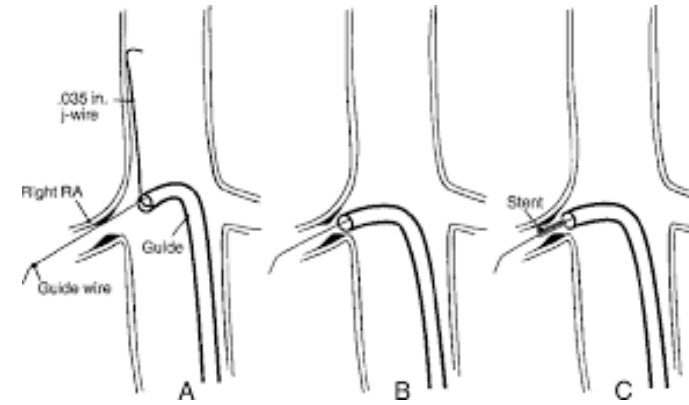


# Landscape of PAD Therapies

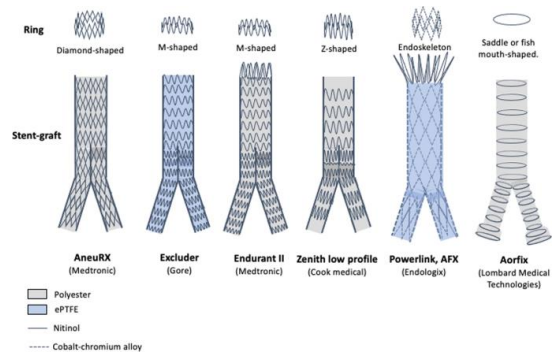
## Carotid Revascularization



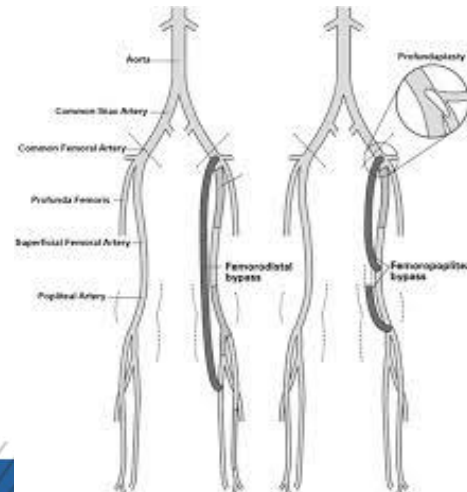
## Renal Artery Stenting



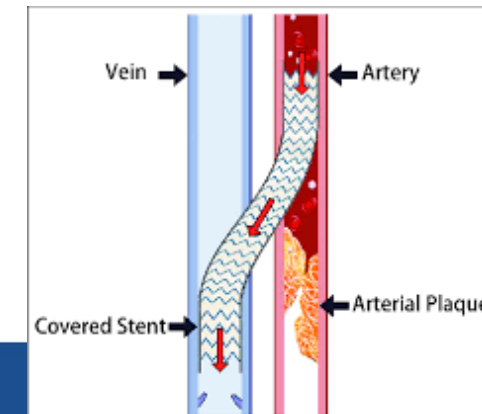
## EVAR



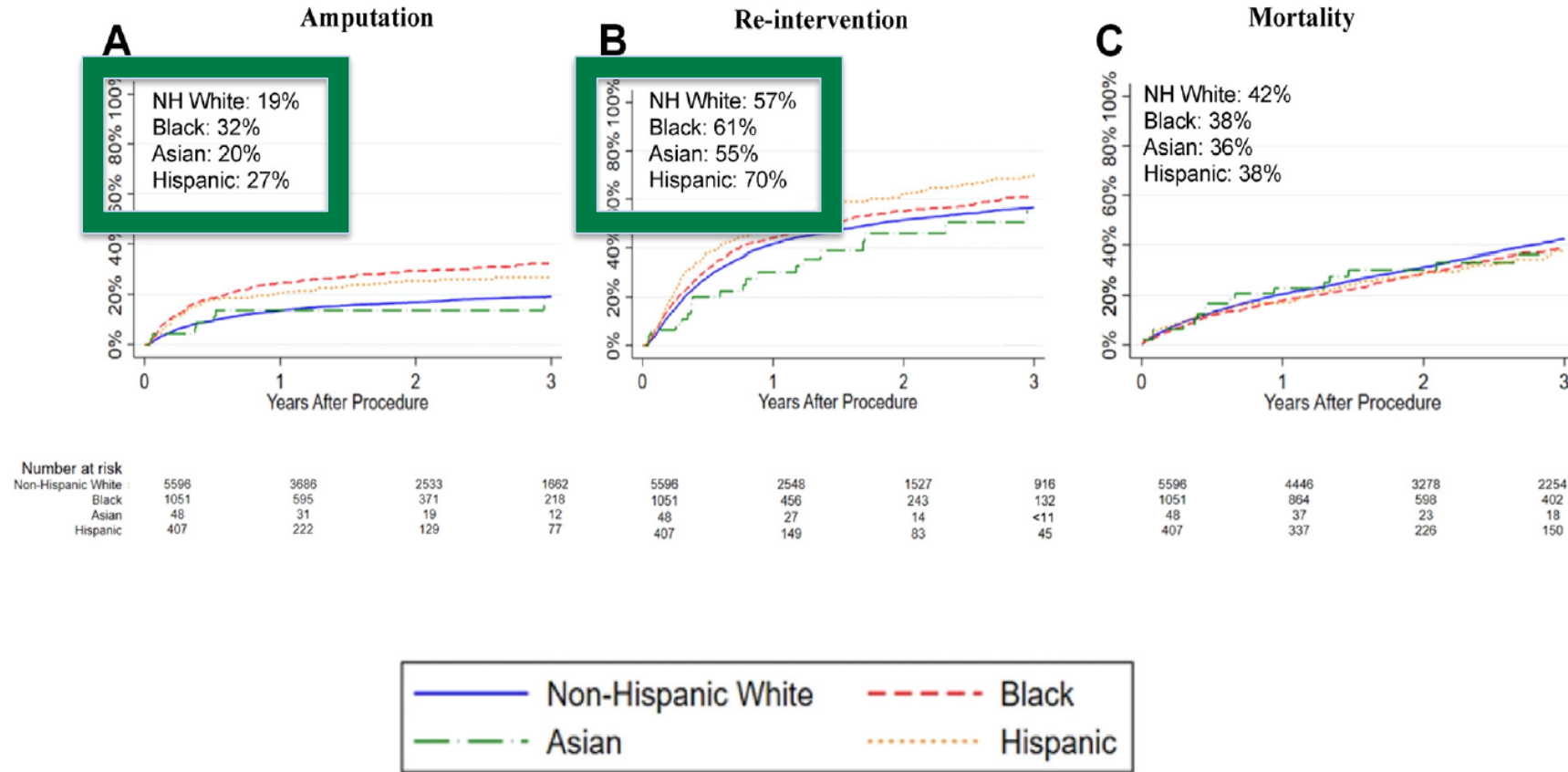
## LE Bypass Surgery



## Deep Vein Arterialization



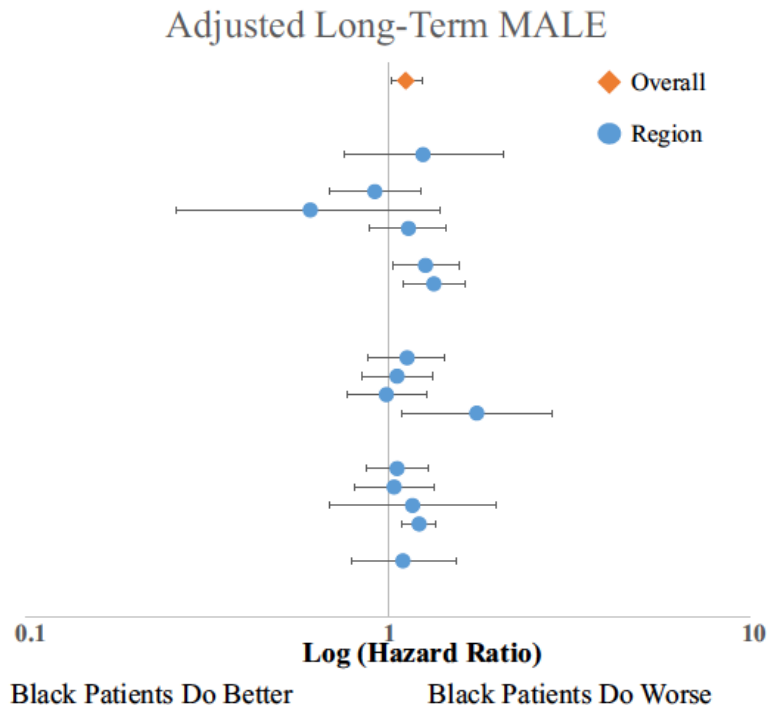
# Disparities in Outcomes Post-LE Bypass



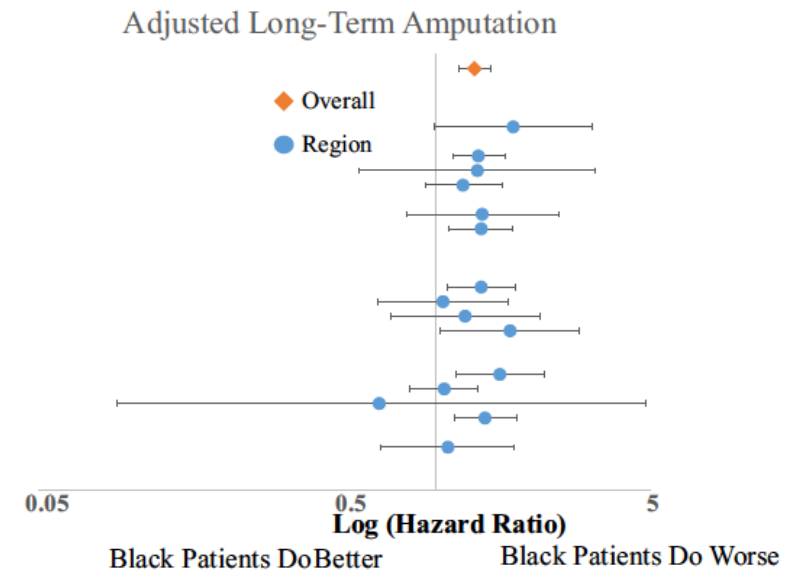
**Fig.** Kaplan-Meier estimates for 3-year amputation **(A)**, reintervention **(B)**, and mortality **(C)** after open infringuinal bypass stratified by race/ethnicity. All standard errors are <10%.

Hazard Ratio of MALE higher for Black patients (HR, 1.3; 95% CI, 1.2-1.4) and Hispanic patients (HR, 1.5; 95% CI, 1.3-1.7)

# Regional Variation in Health Disparities

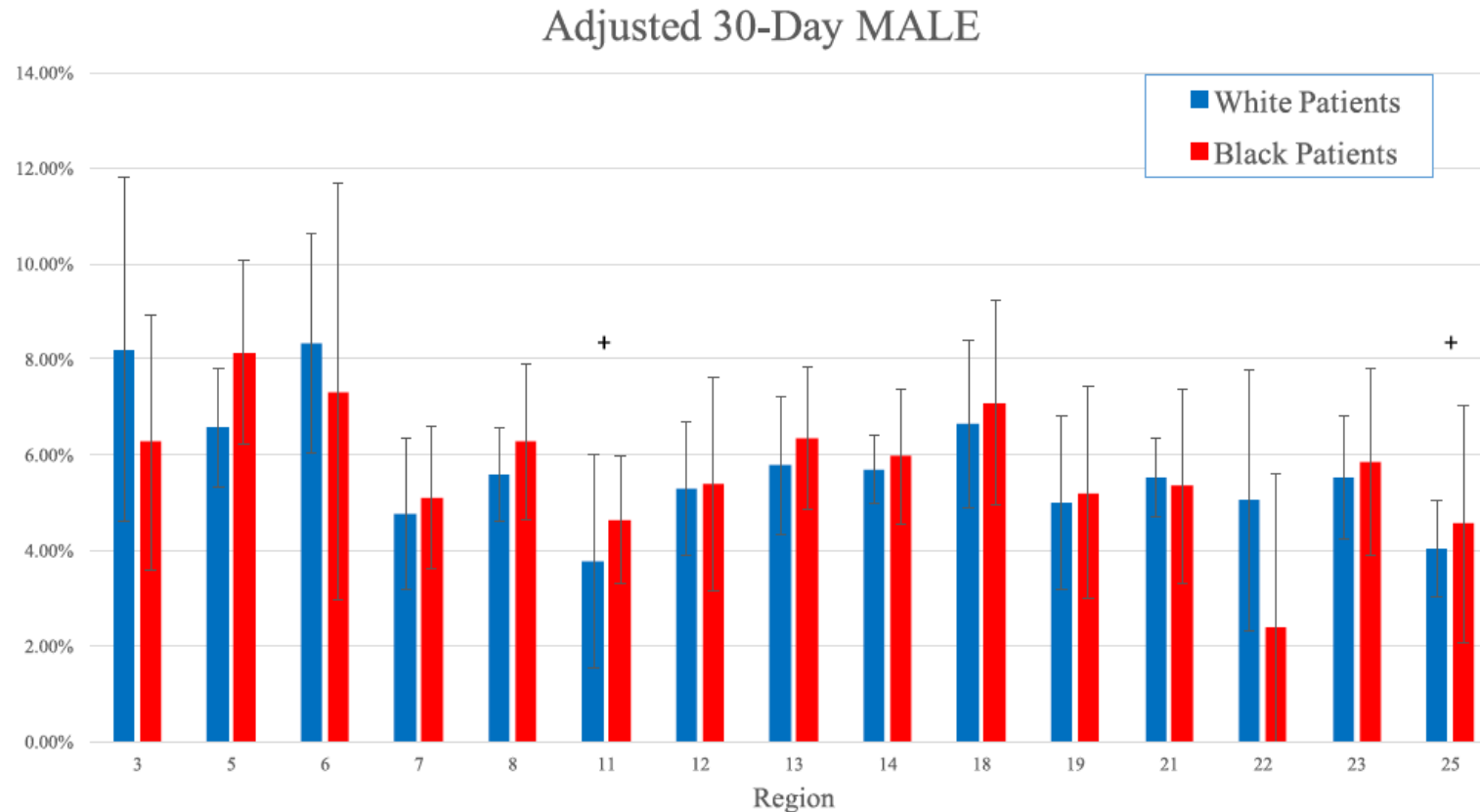


**Fig 5.** Forest plot of the hazard ratios (HRs) for the adjusted long-term major adverse limb event (MALE) risk for black patients compared with white patients by region. The *top line* is the overall cohort; each subsequent line represents an individual region. No significant difference across regions.



**Fig 6.** Forest plot of the hazard ratios (HRs) for the adjusted long-term amputation risk for black patients compared with white patients by region. The *top line* is the overall cohort; each subsequent line represents an individual region. No significant difference across regions.

# Heterogeneity in Practice

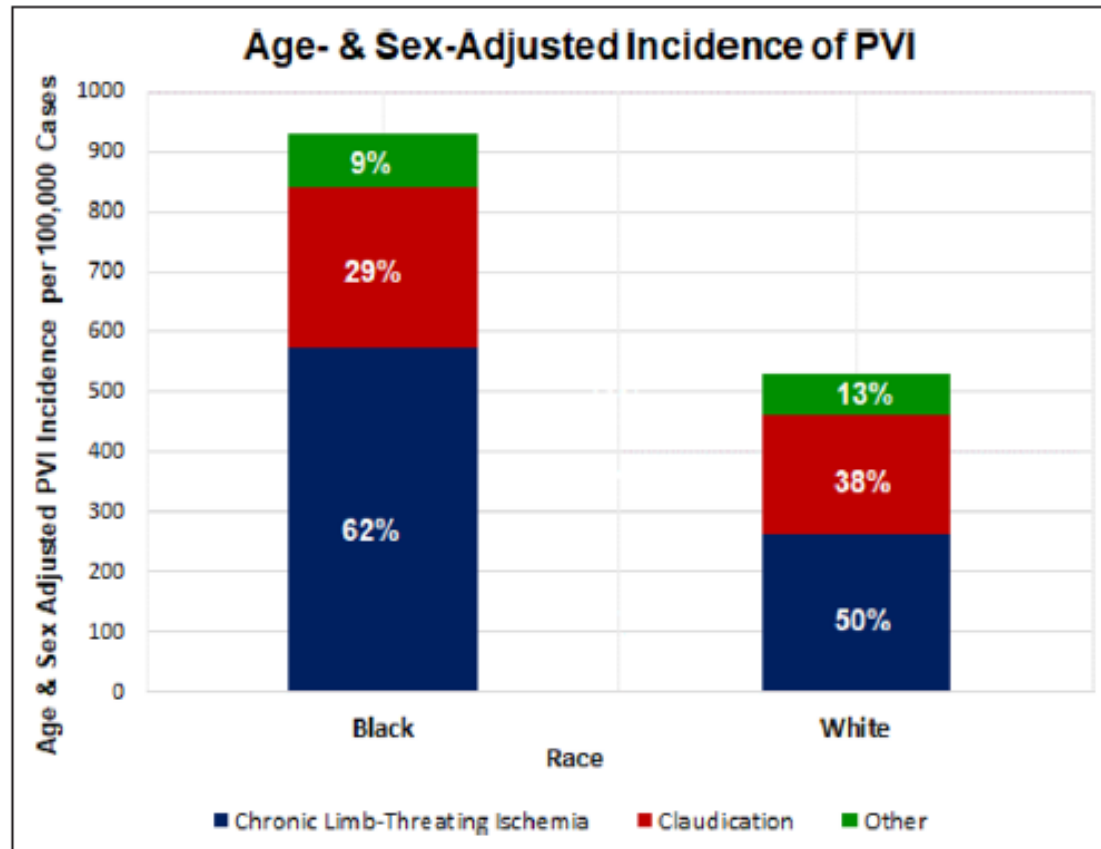


**Fig 2.** Adjusted 30-day rates of major adverse limb event (MALE) by region in black and white patients. \* $P < .05$  for black patients compared with white patients. + $P < .05$  for white patients in that region compared with white patients in other regions. \* $P < .05$  for black patients in that region compared with black patients in other regions.



# Differences in Comorbidities Explain Black–White Disparities in Outcomes After Femoropopliteal Endovascular Intervention

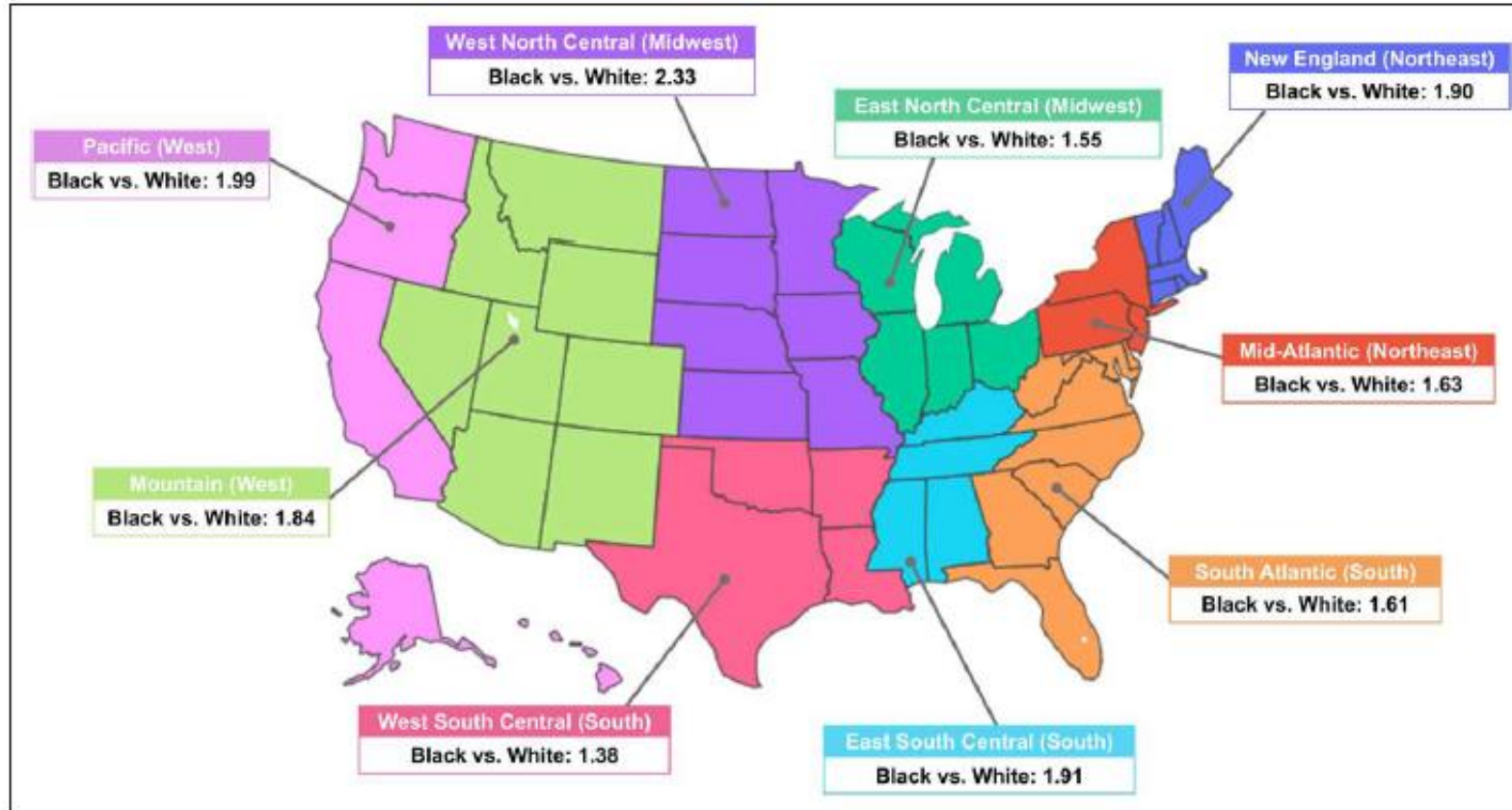
Anna K. Krawisz, MD; Sahana Natesan, BS; Rishi K. Wadhwa, MD; Siyan Chen, MSc; Yang Song, MSc; Robert W. Yeh, MD; Michael R. Jaff, DO; Jay Giri, MD; Howard Julien, MD; Eric A. Secemsky, MD



**Figure 1. Age- and sex-adjusted population-level incidence of PVI in Black and White Medicare beneficiaries from 2016 to 2018.** Black adults have a higher incidence of peripheral endovascular intervention (PVI) than White adults from 2016 to 2018. Black beneficiaries underwent 928 PVIs per 100 000 Black beneficiaries compared with 530 PVIs per 100 000 White beneficiaries over the 3-year study period (risk ratio, 1.75 for Black vs White [95% CI, 1.73–1.77];  $P<0.01$ ).



# Should Location Matter?



**Figure 2. Relative risk of undergoing PVI in Black and White Medicare beneficiaries from 2016 to 2018 divided by census regions of the United States.**

Black adults are more likely to undergo peripheral endovascular intervention (PVI) in all regions of the United States. There is a statistically significant difference in PVI incidence between Black and White adults in every census region (Table 1).

# Differential Outcomes Post-PVI

**Table 3.** Incidence of the Composite Outcome of Death and Major Amputation Stratified by Race and Indication for PVI

Race	Age- and sex-adjusted outcome incidence	CLTI	Claudication	Other
Black, %	25.03 (24.45–25.61)	33.71 (32.89–34.53)	8.56 (7.86–9.27)	21.30 (19.49–23.10)
White, %	18.62 (18.39–18.85)	27.62 (27.23–28.01)	7.08 (6.82–7.33)	17.94 (17.29–18.59)

CLTI indicates chronic limb-threatening ischemia; and PVI, peripheral endovascular intervention.

# How are we doing with GDMT?

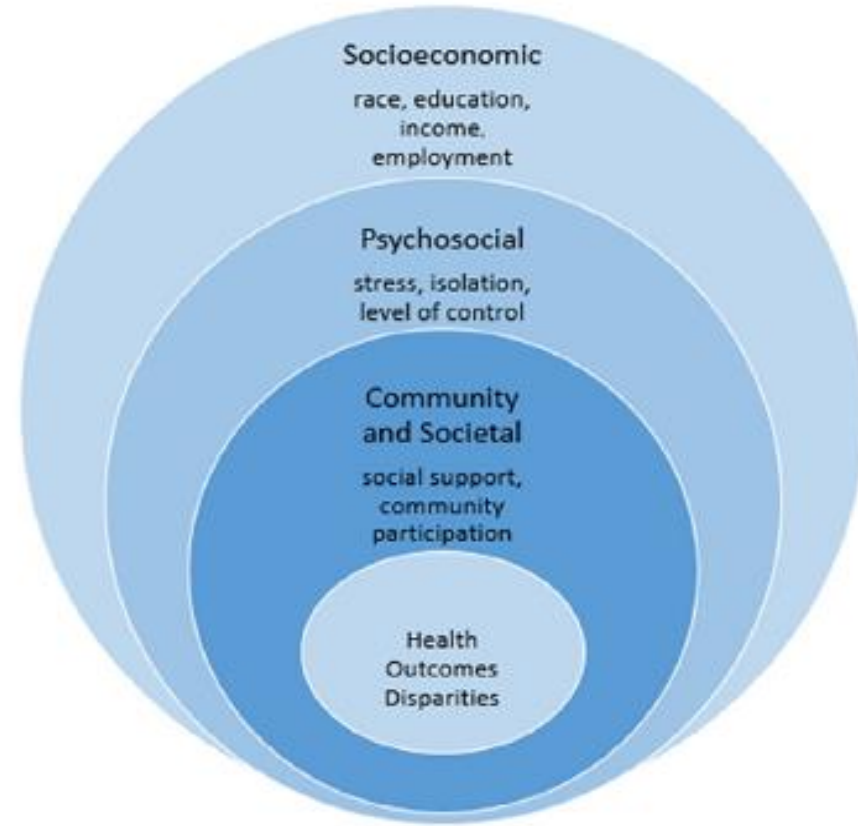
**Table 2. Rates of Prescriptions of Key Cardiovascular Medications by Race**

	All race groups (n=104 699), %	Black (n=16 998), %	White (n=87 701), %	P value
ACE inhibitor/ARB	44.83	40.85	45.61	<0.001
ACE Inhibitor	29.74	26.20	30.42	<0.001
ARB	15.66	15.30	15.73	0.158
ARNI	0.30	0.22	0.32	0.038
Anticoagulant	15.77	11.15	16.66	<0.001
VKA	8.54	5.95	9.04	<0.001
DOAC	6.94	4.92	7.33	<0.001
Other	1.54	0.96	1.65	<0.001
Antiplatelet	47.52	44.51	48.10	<0.001
$\beta$ -Blocker	52.94	50.02	53.50	<0.001
Cholesterol				
Bile acid binding	0.71	0.49	0.75	<0.001
Ezetimibe	4.92	4.44	4.76	<0.001
Statins	59.22	55.32	59.97	<0.001
PCSK9 inhibitors	0.40	0.44	0.34	0.005
Other	3.41	2.62	3.56	<0.001
Diabetes				
Biguanides	15.70	13.38	16.14	<0.001
DPP-4	5.53	5.99	5.43	0.003
GLP-1 agonists	1.09	0.82	1.14	<0.001
Insulin	18.51	22.17	17.80	<0.001
Meglitinides	0.61	0.62	0.60	0.823
SGLT2 inhibitor	0.97	0.71	1.02	<0.001
Sulfonylureas	11.92	10.97	12.11	<0.001
Thiazolidinediones	1.58	1.52	1.60	0.447
Other	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.593
Diuretics				
Carbonic	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.047
Loop diuretics	24.86	22.11	25.40	<0.001
Thiazides	16.60	18.81	16.17	<0.001
Potassium sparing	6.25	5.61	6.37	<0.001
MRA	0.14	0.08	0.15	0.016
Nitrates	8.16	9.67	7.86	<0.001
PDE3 inhibitor	6.68	6.55	6.71	0.438

ACE indicates angiotensin-converting enzyme; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; ARNI, angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; DOAC, direct oral anticoagulants; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; MRA, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists; PCSK9, proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9; PDE3, phosphodiesterase-3; SGLT2, sodium-glucose co-transporter-2; and VKA, vitamin K antagonist.

## Racial and ethnic disparities in coronary, vascular, structural, and congenital heart disease

Cindy L. Grines MD, MSCAI<sup>1</sup> | Andrew J. Klein MD, FSCAI<sup>2</sup> |  
Holly Bauser-Heaton MD, PhD, FSCAI<sup>3</sup> | Mohamad Alkhouli MD, FSCAI<sup>4</sup> |  
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S. Elissa Altin MD, FSCAI<sup>7</sup> | Wayne B. Batchelor MD, FSCAI<sup>8</sup> |  
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Yader Sandoval MD, FSCAI<sup>4</sup> | Michael N. Young MD<sup>18</sup>



**FIGURE 3** The wide breadth of the impact and origin of health care disparities



# LEVELS OF CHANGE

National  
Societal  
Regional/State  
Health System  
Community  
Provider

TABLE 3 Proposed multilevel strategy and tactics to address health care disparities in PAD/CLTI

Level	Proposed opportunities to address health care disparities
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create policies to recruit and increase underrepresented and disadvantaged students in sciences</li> <li>• Mandate tax incentives for pharmaceutical companies to discount medications in low socioeconomic areas</li> <li>• Establish congressional awareness of healthcare disparities</li> <li>• Develop a congressional task force to address healthcare disparities</li> <li>• Create national research programs specifically addressing health disparities</li> <li>• Expand grants, scholarship, and loan forgiveness/repayment programs to serve vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Increase general public awareness of disparities in healthcare via national public health campaigns, celebrity messaging, and society coalition building</li> <li>• Mandate public reporting of hospital amputation rates</li> <li>• Determine and share publicly all social risk factors of health, cultural, and community competence in practice and disparities of care via by use of AHRQ NHDR-NHQR reports</li> <li>• Mandate EMR companies offer freely QA/QI tools to promote standardized care and documentation for CLTI</li> <li>• Mandate all medical school curricula include health disparity education</li> </ul>
Professional society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote a diverse CV healthcare workforce throughout all appointments and committees</li> <li>• Engage providers who understand and meet individual patient needs as leaders for improving racial and socioeconomic disparities</li> <li>• Utilize "prime time" slots during annual conferences to highlight disparities in multidisciplinary presentations</li> <li>• Produce clinical documents that acknowledge that minorities have been underrepresented in CV trials</li> <li>• Define standards of care, evidenced-based guidelines, quality of wound-care, optimal medical therapy, affordable and appropriate revascularization in all at-risk populations for national use</li> <li>• Develop Cath lab proficiency tools and online training to identify institutional gaps in PAD-CLTI care</li> <li>• Define the CLTI care team to aid hospitals and ensure they each have one</li> <li>• Create a PAD awareness campaign among all providers and promote patient-centered PAD educational programs for all populations</li> <li>• Educate patients and providers on the basics of PAD, available treatment options, and how/when to seek a second opinion and how it progresses to CLTI if preventative steps are not initiated</li> <li>• Establish partnerships with industry to target vulnerable populations with CLTI</li> <li>• Develop a PAD educational culturally sensitive population specific media platforms that can be used by members in their own community (available in a multitude of languages)</li> <li>• Develop bylaws to ensure BOT members include those from diverse backgrounds</li> <li>• Establish programs that reach out to other key societies involved in CLTI care including wound care, PCPs, diabetologists, nephrologists, and so forth.</li> </ul>
Regional/state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine and share current state of care/provider at the state and county level by local and state governments (are there enough providers to provide care?)</li> <li>• Improve access to quality care in areas lacking specialties or resources</li> <li>• Develop regional expertise in CLTI to build MDT teams</li> <li>• State incentives (e.g., loan forgiveness programs) to prompt providers to work in rural and underserved areas</li> <li>• Designate referral centers and centers of excellence in CLTI to permit centralization of advanced care and incentives to refer to such centers from smaller centers (tax benefits)</li> <li>• Focus on recruitment and retention of minorities into interventional cardiology with a focus on PAD and providing care to rural/underserved areas</li> <li>• Address social determinants of health into algorithm and sustainable community-based strategies that demonstrate effectiveness</li> </ul>
Healthcare system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandate a multidisciplinary CLTI care team with support for a CLTI limb salvage program</li> <li>• Support and incentivize physicians and non-physicians (including diabetes educators, nurses, wound care, pharmacist, and community navigators) to adequately address the relationship between patient demographics, risk factors, lifestyle, medications, and patients' education</li> <li>• Identify and screen all at-risk patients by developing EMR tools</li> <li>• Review and disseminate all QA/QI initiatives and outcomes with respect to race</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund community and faith-based health driven initiatives within the marginalized communities.</li> <li>• Develop PAD/CLTI screening events</li> <li>• Establish partnerships between local respected leaders of underserved and vulnerable populations and health care providers dedicated to CLTI care</li> </ul>
Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize disparities exist in all healthcare systems and practices</li> <li>• Attend professional development courses/lectures on healthcare disparities and those designed toward team building that enhance the CLTI team development</li> <li>• Examine our practices for disparities in care, including local amputation rates by race and sex</li> <li>• Develop partnerships with local community leaders to raise PAD/CLTI awareness, especially leaders of vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Volunteer your time for healthcare screenings specifically for vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Commit to making a difference to eliminate these disparities, one interaction at a time</li> </ul>

Abbreviations: CLTI, chronic limb-threatening ischemia; PAD, peripheral artery disease.



# PAD Awareness Month





## Peripheral Artery Disease Symptom Checker

**What is PAD?** Peripheral artery disease (PAD) usually occurs when peripheral arteries that carry blood from the heart to other parts of the body narrow due to a buildup of fatty plaque deposits.

**Why is it important?** PAD increases your risk for serious health problems such as heart attack and stroke. PAD can also lead to leg or foot amputation.

### Risk Factors for PAD:

<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have a family history of PAD? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have diabetes? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have chronic kidney disease? 
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have high blood pressure? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have high cholesterol? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you smoke or have you in the past? 

Check symptoms that apply to you, noting the frequency.  
Then bring this tracker to your next appointment to review with your doctor.

Weakness, heaviness, pain, cramping, numbness or tingling in the leg/calf muscles, especially during walking and other activities	<input type="radio"/> Never	<input type="radio"/> Occasionally	<input type="radio"/> Often	<input type="radio"/> Always
Leg pain that disturbs sleep	<input type="radio"/> Never	<input type="radio"/> Occasionally	<input type="radio"/> Often	<input type="radio"/> Always
Sores or wounds on toes, feet or legs that heal slowly or not at all	<input type="radio"/> Never	<input type="radio"/> Occasionally	<input type="radio"/> Often	<input type="radio"/> Always
Toes or feet look pale, discolored, darkened, black or bluish	<input type="radio"/> Never	<input type="radio"/> Occasionally	<input type="radio"/> Often	<input type="radio"/> Always
Have you experienced a decrease in walking distance?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No		
Have you noticed poor nail growth and decreased hair growth on the toes and legs over time?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No		
Does one leg or foot regularly feel colder than the other?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No		

It's important to note these symptoms to get an accurate diagnosis and to talk to your health care professional about managing them. You also may have to see a vascular specialist.

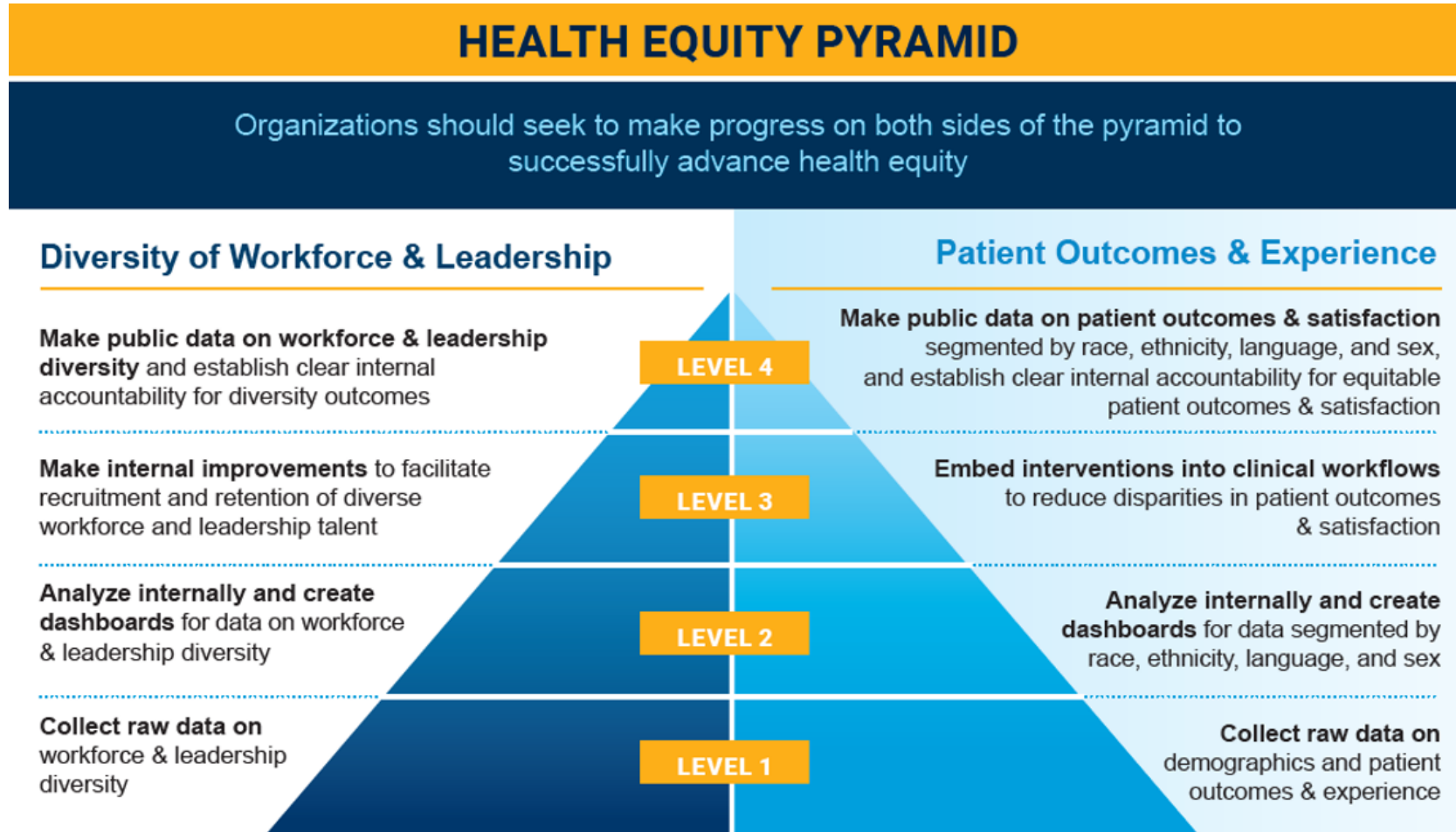
For more information about peripheral artery disease, go to [heart.org/PAD](https://heart.org/PAD).

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Courtesy of the American Heart Association



# Roadmap for CEOs



# Takeaways for Impacting Change

- Be cognizant of the inherent differences in how patients may be diagnosed and treated based on ethnicity
- Align on a common goal -> the patient
- Improve enrollment of diverse populations in pivotal clinical trials
- Advocate to local, state, and national governance to address systemic health disparities through funding



# Q&A

## VISION

Achieve a culture of health where every person reaches their full cardiovascular health potential as a natural right.





# Thank You



Webinar Evaluation, Recording, and Companion Guide will be emailed to all registrants.

ACC CardioSmart PAD Resources

<https://www.cardiosmart.org/topics/peripheral-artery-disease>



Upcoming Webinar

“Understanding the Role of Community Engagement in CV Care”

Nov 2024; 7pm



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