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The Importance of Podiatry Care for Diabetics

New Study Demonstrates Dramatic Impact of Podiatric Care

Patients with diabetes who receive medical and surgical care provided by a podiatrist are less likely to suffer hospitalization or amputation than patients who do not receive care from a podiatrist, according to a new study from Thomson Reuters. Thomson Reuters is an internationally respected research firm with expertise in the healthcare market.

The study sponsored by APMA, (American Podiatric Medical Association), examined records for more than 32,000 patients with diabetes under 65 and matched health and risk factors for those who had podiatry visits to those who did not. Care by a podiatric physician, defined as at least one pre-ulcer visit, was associated with lower risk of hospitalization and amputation. James Wrobel, DPM, presented the results at the American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Florida.

“The dramatic results of the study demonstrate the important role of today’s podiatrists,” said APMA President Kathleen Stone, DPM. “As a profession, we make a significant impact on patient outcomes and health-care costs. As more diabetic patients receive high-quality medical care by podiatrists prior to developing ulcers, we will see even greater reductions in cost and improvements in patients’ quality of life. The next step is to confirm these findings with prospective pilot programs that identify high-risk patients and provide preventive foot care services by podiatrists.”