

Saving Limbs, Saving Lives

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At the Elliot Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, we heal wounds to save limbs and lives! This begins with protecting toes and portions of the foot. People with diabetes have a 15 to 25% lifetime risk of developing a diabetic foot wound and more than 10% of people with diabetes are suffering from diabetic foot wounds every day! Causes leading to diabetic foot ulcers include loss of feeling due to peripheral neuropathy, bony structural changes common in the diabetic foot, infection related to diabetes, reduced blood flow due to arterial disease, and the social and financial burdens commonly faced by the diabetic patient.



Providing care to the patient with a diabetic foot ulcer requires a comprehensive approach including managing infection, off-loading pressure, improved blood sugar control, and patient education in preventative foot care. We work with your referring provider along with vascular, orthopedic surgeons, and cardiologists, to use the least invasive ways to maximize healing while minimizing your risks. We use many types of dressings to promote your healing and reduce infection including orthotists who make specialty shoes for diabetics. Bone infection is an indication for a specialized treatment called hyperbaric oxygen therapy and is highly effective for preventing amputation. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy increases the oxygen to the wound and kills bacteria. Studies have shown that diabetic wounds treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy heal more often and avoid amputation as compared to wounds not treated.

Amputation should be the last resort. One way we provide specialty care to patients is to avoid amputation in patients with diabetes. Removing a toe or toes affects balance and the way we walk. Over time this results in a change in foot structure, causing pressure on areas of the foot not intended to bear weight.

Removal of any part of the foot increases the chances for further amputation. Efforts to save toes and feet can prevent leg

amputation. According to the 2011 National Diabetes Statistics, more than 60% of leg amputations, not caused by trauma, occur in diabetics. In fact, in 2006 there were approximately 65,700 amputations of diabetics' legs. Unfortunately, rates of death following leg amputation are quite high; 4 out of 10 people at one year, and a startling 8 out of 10 people within 5 years following amputation. Additionally, more than half of patients with leg amputation will have amputation of the other leg in the following 2 to 3 years. These alarming facts create urgency for early specialized care for the diabetic foot ulcer.

At the Elliot Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, our goal is to heal wounds in the effort to save limbs. Our team of wound specialist's work to heal and prevent recurrence. Our providers are experienced in caring for wound caused by diabetes, trauma, surgery, pressure, burns, radiation and difficulties with circulation in patients of all ages. Procedures performed in our comprehensive Wound Center include compression wraps & stockings, total contact casting, debridement, skin grafting, and hyperbaric medicine. Utilizing state of the art specialty wound care, we successfully avoid potential loss of toes and legs. As a healthcare team we work to improve your quality of life and heal your wounds.

For more information, call 663-3630.

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