Reviewer’s report

Title: Critical Appraisal of International Guidelines for the Screening and Treatment of Asymptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease: A Systematic Review

Version: 0 Date: 25 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Tejas Singh

Reviewer’s report:

Thanks for this interesting systematic review on the guidelines for screening and treatment of asymptomatic PAD.

Interesting to see the authors views on current guidelines; although I think a major takeaway from this review is that there is a need for high quality evidence that directly evaluates the value of screening for asymptomatic PAD patients.

It would be good to clearly define in the introduction/selection criteria what treatments are specifically being looked at; i.e pharmacological treatment, exercise, endovascular/open surgical etc. This becomes more apparent when looking at the tables, but please define this early on.

Comments

Abstract:

In the background the authors define PAD as 'periphery artery disease' where as in the introduction of the manuscript this is defined as 'peripheral artery disease' - please be consistent. 'guidance documents' ? guidelines

Introduction:

Line 76-78: Is this true ? It has previously been reported that despite BMT PAD pts are a high risk of major cardiovascular events. The use of 'cardiovascular disease' appears misleading here - do we mean events?


Would be worth acknowledging some of the current multi-component vascular RCT's which are assessing the screening for PAD:


Line 171: Some guidelines 'did' not

Line 222: PAD is 'a' condition with significant morbidity and mortality

Discussion/Conclusion:

Please specify what high quality evidence is needed? The paucity of data here is likely the key problem, and the authors should explore this further. How many this explain heterogeneity in current guidelines?

Line 258-259: Please provide references to support 'AGREE II instrument has been recognized and widely used in the guideline appraisal.'

Line 261-263: 'suggestion on how to improve in the future' - can the authors be more specific on the suggestion please; is this simply the requirement for high quality evidence or are there any other suggestions that should be considered in the development of guidelines.

Do the guidelines included in this systematic review intend to be global or restricted to a particular area (e.g. Australasia)? Probably important to state as this would likely influence guidelines if based on data restricted to a specific region (i.e specific regions may have a greater/lesser burden of disease).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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