



THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Do You Really Lose Your Cardiopulmonary Reserve After Major Amputation?

Clifford J. Buckley, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery

SMSE 2015
Rabat, Morocco

Central Texas Veterans Health Care



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Disclosure

I have no relevant financial relationships with proprietary entities producing health care goods or services related to the content of this presentation.

The content of this talk may not reflect the opinion of the United States Government

Facts

- Even in an era of modern arterial reconstruction, CLI = 30,000 – 50,000 major lower limb amputations per year
- Elderly patients who:
 - Do not walk
 - Are mentally incompetent
 - Have flexion contractures or severe arthritic joints
 - Have concurrent terminal illness

Primary amputation may be appropriate

Facts

- **Patients requiring amputation for CLI commonly have advanced CAD**
- **Silent MI common if diabetic**
- **Increased risk for M&M**
 - **Recent MI, CHF, unstable angina, significant mitral / aortic disease**
 - **Poor potential for rehab with prosthesis**

Cardiopulmonary Reserve After Amputation

- Means of assessing cardiac function
 - Stroke volume
 - End-diastolic volume
 - End-systolic volume
 - Heart rate
 - Work capacity
 - Systolic & diastolic blood pressure

Major Lower Limb Amputation

- **Effects on cardiac function**
 - **Increased resting heart rate**
 - **Systolic & diastolic HTN**
 - **Decreased end-diastolic / end-systolic volume**
 - **Lack of increase in stroke volume when subjected to work or stress**
 - **Especially with AKA – decreased cardiac output**

Cardiopulmonary Reserve After Amputation

- Means of assessing respiratory function
 - Respiratory rate
 - Breathing capacity
 - Minute respiratory volume

Major Lower Limb Amputation

- **Effects on respiratory function**
 - **Decreased breathing capacity**
 - **Increased minute respiratory volume**
 - **Increased respiratory rate at baseline**
- **Stress or work increase respiratory function effects**

Below Knee Amputations

- 10 – 40% increase in energy cost when ambulating using well fitted limb prosthesis compared to normal limbs
- **Compensate by walking slower to keep HR, respiratory quotient and related energy expenditure WNL**
- **Patients < 75 yo with moderate comorbidities can achieve successful, independent prosthetic ambulation in more than 70% of BKA provided they were ambulatory before amputation**

Below Knee Amputations

- Overall impact on survival with BKA
 - 49% - 3 year
 - 31% - 5 year
- Life Table analysis showed 50% surviving amputees required contralateral amputation within 2 years of original amputation

Above Knee Amputations

- Wheelchair & walking crutches are minimum requirements for rehab
- Newer prosthesis may be better alternative
 - Light weight
 - Strong endoskeleton design
 - Sophisticated joints
 - Energy storage capacity

Above Knee Amputations

- Energy expenditure increased 50% - 70% with prosthesis
 - **BKA – normalize cardiovascular physiologic effects by decreasing walking speed**
 - **AKA – can't normalize & have following**
 - **> O₂ consumption**
 - **Increased HR**
 - **Significant decrease in respiratory quotient**

Above Knee Amputations

- **Successful rehab – 36% - 76%**
determined by
 - **Age**
 - **Comorbidities**
 - **Mental function**
- **Risk of opposite limb loss > 50% at 2 years**

Pre-Op Factors Influencing Functional Outcome After Major Lower Limb Amputation

- Age \geq 70
- Dementia
- ESRD
- Advanced CAD
- Non-ambulatory status

Older patients with dementia who lose leg from acute ischemia do poorest

Treatment Failure Triumvirate

- 1 or more endovascular interventions
- Open surgical bypass
- BKA / AKA

Commonly seen in patients with CLI

Durable reimbursement ??????

Outcomes of Major Lower Limb Amputation

- **Mortality**

- BKA – 4% - 16%
- AKA – 12% - 40%

- **Morbidity**

- Incidence of non-healing amputation stumps – 3 – 28%
- 2/3 AKA have diabetes
- 1/2 - 2/3 AKA have s/s cardiac & pulmonary disease

Conclusion

- **Patients with major lower limb amputations**
 - **Ambulatory / functional capacity depends on dynamic capabilities of cardiac and respiratory systems**
 - **Maintain upper body strength & adequate physiologic response to exercise using remaining extremities**
 - **Rehab with newer prosthesis (even AK) can be successfully accomplished**
- **Future reimbursement probably driven by evidence based treatment protocols & optimal functional outcomes**

Thank You