Direct Revascularization With the Angiosome Concept for Lower Limb Ischemia
A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Tzu-Yen Huang, MD, Ting-Shuo Huang, MD, PhD, Yao-Chang Wang, MD, Pin-Fu Huang, MD, Hsiu-Chin Yu, MS, and Chi-Hsiao Yeh, MD, PhD

Abstract: The angiosome concept provides practical information regarding the vascular anatomy of reconstructive and vascular surgery for the treatment of peripheral arterial occlusive disease and, particularly, critical lower limb ischemia. The aim of the study was to confirm the efficacy of direct revascularization with the angiosome concept (DR) for lower limb ischemia. Complementary manual searches were performed through the Pubmed, Cochrane Library, and EMBASE databases.

We searched all randomized and nonrandomized studies (NRSs) comparing DR with indirect revascularization (IR) (without the angiosome concept) for lower limb ischemia. Only 9 nonrandomized controlled retrospective cohort studies were found and included. Trials published in any language were included. Primary endpoints were time to limb amputation and time to wound healing. Data extraction and trial quality assessment were performed by two authors independently. A third author was consulted for disagreements settlement and quality assurance.

Five NRSs involving 779 lower limbs revealed that DR significantly improved the overall survival of limbs (hazard ratio [HR] 0.61; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.46–0.80; P < 0.001; I\(^2\) = 0%). In addition, DR significantly improved time to wound healing (HR 1.38; 95% CI = 1.13–1.69; P = 0.002; I\(^2\) = 0%, in 5 studies including 605 limbs).

All included studies were retrospective comparative studies, and no consensus was obtained in describing wound conditions in the included studies. Our results suggested that treatment of lower limb ischemia using DR is more effective in salvaging limbs and healing wounds than IR is. Additional randomized controlled studies are necessary to confirm these results.

(Medicine 94(34):e1427)

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval, CLI = critical limb ischemia, DM = diabetes mellitus, DR = direct revascularization

INTRODUCTION

Peripheral arterial occlusive disease (PAOD) is a major disease that limits active aging in elderly people. Complications of PAOD are the leading cause of hospitalization and amputation for people with lower limb ischemia, and account for billion-dollar expenditures annually in the United States. Treatment goals for lower legs critical limb ischemia (CLI) patients are to increase wound healing, improve quality of life, prevent limb loss, and prolong survival. Guidelines from the Transatlantic Inter-Society Consensus II (TASC-II) and the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association recommend multidisciplinary approaches to reduce the frequency of foot complications in CLI patients. Early revascularization intervention with bypass or endovascular surgery, particularly for high-risk patients, is considered to be the gold standard in reducing the possibility of hospitalization and amputation. Nevertheless, current revascularization intervention strategies, which restore circulation to a nontargeted artery, have a 15% failure rate in healing CLI wounds. Such a high rate suggests that increasing adequate blood supply to feeding arteries at the distal occluded lesion-site might be crucial in improving the results of intervention.

The concept of angiosomes, first described by Ian Taylor, provides practical information on the application of vascular anatomy for reconstruction and vascular surgery in the treatment of PAOD, and particularly on the treatment of CLI. According to the angiosome concept, the foot is divided into 6 distinct angiosomes fed by source arteries, 3 from posterior tibial, 2 from peroneal, and 1 from anterior tibial artery, with functional vascular interconnections between muscle, fascia, and skin. Numerous direct arterial-to-arterial connections exist between the main arteries of the foot, and these connections provide alternative routes of blood flow when the arteries that directly supply the angiosome is either disrupted or compromised. The angiosome concept suggests that recanalization of the artery that is directly supplying the ischemic and/or ulcerated angiosome, instead of revascularizing one of the other 2 major arteries hoping that existing arterial-to-arterial connections will provide blood perfusion to the ischemic and/or ulcerated angiosome, might be more successful.

It is unclear whether direct revascularization with the angiosome concept (DR) can provide superior results for CLI patients than that of conventional indirect revascularization (IR) without the angiosome concept. One recent review revealed that

with the angiosome concept, ESRD = end-stage renal disease, EVT = endovascular treatment, HR = hazard ratio, IR = indirect revascularization (nonangiosome model), NOS = Newcastle–Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, NRS = nonrandomized study, PAOD = peripheral arterial occlusive disease, RR = relative risk.
evidence is insufficient to recommend DR in CLI patients. However, we performed a systematic review and meta-analysis investigating the efficacy of DR, comparing it with conventional IR for the treatment of CLI patients.

METHODS

Search Strategy

This protocol-driven and systematic review was conducted in accordance with PROSPERO published protocol and analysis planning (PROSPERO 2013:CRD42013004401, http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/Prospero). Searches were not restricted by publication status, date, or language. The search keywords included angiosome, angioplasty, endovascular, revascularization, endoluminal, transluminal, and bypass. In addition, MeSH terms were explored. The final results were combined with the following keywords: lower limbs, extremities, and foot. The databases we used to conduct our searches were Pubmed (from 1948 to March 2013), the Cochrane Library (latest issue published March 2013), and EMBASE (January 1980–March 2013). The search strategy is provided in Appendix 1. Databases of clinical trials (available at http://www.clinicaltrials.gov [accessed March 26, 2014]) reference lists of reviews had also been searched to identify relevant trials.

Study Selection

In the literature search, titles, abstracts, and full texts of trials identified were independently screened by three authors (T-YH, T-SH, and C-HY). Articles with comparisons between DR and IR were included if adults (>18 years old) with critical lower limb ischemia (as defined by TASC-II) had been treated using either endovascular surgery or conventional bypass surgery. Reviews, case series, case reports, and trials without comparisons between DR and IR were excluded. Primary outcomes included time to limb amputation, time to wound healing, and mortality rate.

Data Extraction

Characteristics of studies (year of publication, study design and setting, method of recruitment, inclusion and exclusion criteria), participants (sex, age, and underlying disease), interventions (operative techniques, endovascular, or traditional surgery), comparisons (types of control group), and outcomes (various outcome measurements and follow-up times) were recorded. In studies with multiple arm designs, head-to-head comparison data were extracted for data synthesis. Time to amputation and time to wound healing were used as the primary outcomes.

Assessment of Risk of Bias

Data extraction and quality assessment were performed by two authors (T-YH and C-HY) independently. A third author (T-SH) was consulted for disagreements settlement and quality assurance. The risk of bias tool of the Systematic Reviews of Interventions from the Cochrane Handbook was utilized for determination of methodological quality. Because the included studies were all nonrandomized studies (NRSs), we assessed methodological quality by using the Newcastle–Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (NOS). Three determinants composed the NOS system, including selection scores, outcome scores, and comparability scores. Studies with NOS ≥8 points were defined as high-quality studies, whereas other studies as low-quality studies.

Data Synthesis and Statistical Analysis

For time to event outcome, hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were extracted in primary studies as the size to estimate the overall effect of treatment. If data were not provided, the effect size was calculated in accordance with methods suggested by Parmar et al by using a spreadsheet developed by Tierney et al as described earlier. For 12-month amputation rate and 12-month wound healing rate, we defined amputation and wound healing as events. Clinical heterogeneity were assessed by comparing the protocols and methodologies of the included studies, and assessed statistical heterogeneity with the $I^2$ test results (using a cutoff value of $P < 0.10$), and the $P$ statistic, where $P < 25\%$, $25\% \leq P \leq 50\%$, and $P > 50\%$ indicates mild, moderate, and substantial heterogeneity, respectively. Subgroup analysis based on study quality or intervention (surgical or endovascular) was conducted, and data synthesis and statistical analysis were conducted using Review Manager (RevMan Version 5.2; The Nordic Cochrane Center, Copenhagen, Denmark). A funnel plot was created to evaluate publication bias, and significance level was set at 0.05.

RESULTS

Search Results and Study Characteristics

Overall, 10 NRSs were included, as shown in Figure 1 and Table 1. No randomized control trial was identified, and all studies were retrospective cohort study. Iida et al published two studies in 2010 and 2012. The study of 2010 analyzed patients from April 2003 to August 2008. The study of 2012 analyzed patients from April 2004 to October 2010 using matching method. Therefore, we used the study of 2012 to conduct meta-analysis. All the DR studies followed the Taylor’s angiosome concept. Three studies (Azuma et al, Iida et al, and Söderström et al) utilized propensity score matched comparison between DR and IR groups, were analyzed. Table 1 shows the major characteristics of the included NRSs, none of these were conducted before 2009. Eight NRSs provided outcome measurements indicating limb salvage rate (ie, free of above-ankle amputation) or free from major amputation rate. One NRS presented only the free from amputation rate and did not indicate major or minor amputation rate. Seven studies recorded the wound healing rate, and 1 study recorded the wound unhealing rate. The NRS by Rashid et al was excluded because their results provided subgroup data only, which could not be analyzed. All included trial patients were in either Rutherford Class 5 or 6 and Fontaine Stage 4. The key characteristics of patients included in all studies are shown in Table 2. Mean patient age was >67 years old and most patients were male. In addition, the majority of patients (at least 64%) had diabetes mellitus (DM), and 3 studies recruited only DM patients. We did not perform further subgroup analysis because only Varela et al had described the subgroup of IR with collateral vessels.

Quality Assessment

The risks of bias for all NRSs are shown in Table 3. The NOS of all trials ranged from 5 points to 9 points. Five NRSs had a score of >8 points.

Meta-Analysis of Limb Salvage and Wound Healing

Reported outcomes in primary studies were shown in Table S1, http://links.lww.com/MD/A394, Table S2, http://links.lww.com/MD/A394, and Table S3, http://links.lww.com/MD/A394.
Although 9 NRSs reported a limb salvage rate, and 8 NRSs reported the wound healing rate, the follow-up periods were different in individual study. To include more studies into our meta-analysis, we used time to amputation and time to wound healing as our primary endpoints. In addition, we could not find adequate information with regard to the data of loss-to-follow-up in primary studies. However, we analyzed 12-month amputation rate and 12-month wound healing rate using available information. A total of 719 limbs were treated with DR, and 493 limbs were treated with IR. Five studies included total endovascular treatment (EVT), another study included traditional bypass surgery, and 3 studies included both surgical and EVT interventions.

Fossaceca et al recorded the limbs of the DR and IR groups (247 limbs vs 52 limbs), but only presented outcomes by counting individual patients (167 patients vs 34 patients). Therefore, we calculated the data in our meta-analysis according to the number of patients.

**Time to Amputation**

Overall, we obtained 5 studies that reported 779 limbs. DR significantly improved time to amputation compared with IR (HR 0.61; 95% CI = 0.46–0.80; P < 0.001; Table 4; Figures 2 and 3). Little evidence of heterogeneity between studies was obtained (P = 0.69, I² = 0%). According to study quality and intervention methods, subgroup analysis was performed, which showed little evidence of interaction (Table 4).

We analyzed 12-month amputation rate using 4 available studies. Our result showed the DR group significantly reduced 12-month amputation rate compared with IR group (relative risk ratio [RR] 0.65; 95% CI = 0.54–0.79; P < 0.001; Figure S1, http://links.lww.com/MD/A394).

**Time to Wound Healing**

We obtained similar results for time to wound healing in the 5 studies with 605 limbs analyzed in which DR exerted a

---

**FIGURE 1.** Flow diagram of the article selection process in accordance with PRISMA guideline. PRISMA = Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses.
| Study                  | Cohort Information                                                                 | Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Adjusted Data                                                                 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Neville et al (2009)  | 2 y in 1 hospital, performed in the USA. Mortality rate in the DR group was 13.6% and 28.6% in the IR group. | 1. Tissue loss, decreasing ability for wound healing with lack of pedal pulses  
2. ABI <0.3  
3. Monophasic segmental waveforms  
4. TcPO2 <25 mm Hg  
5. TcPO2 index <0.4 | Nil                                                                                          |
| Varela et al (2010)   | From January 2005 to December 2008, performed in Spain. Mortality rate in 12 mo was 13% in the DR group, and 27% in the IR group. | 1. Ulcers >2 wk  
2. Lack of pedal pulses  
3. Monophasic segmental waveforms  
4. ABI <0.5  
5. Toe pressure <50 mm Hg | Nil                                                                                          |
| Alexandrescu et al (2011) | From September 2001 to April 2010, performed by single hospital in Belgium. | 1. DM | Nil                                                                                          |
| Blanes Orti et al (2011) | From January 2007 to December 2009, performed in España. | 1. Endovascular treatment was successful.  
2. Wound (infection or wet gangrene were debrided)  
3. Hemodynamic evidence by ABI and photoplethysmography. | Nil                                                                                          |
| Azuma et al (2012)    | From 2003 to 2009, performed in Japan. Nonhealing ulcer or gangrene with hemodynamic evidence (ABI or SPP) | Adjusted by age, sex, DM, H/D, albumin <3 g/dL, CRP >5 mg/dL, Rutherford 6, heel ulcer/gangrene, bypass target | |
statistically significant effect (HR 1.38; 95% CI = 1.13–1.69; \( P = 0.002 \); Table 4; Figures 4 and 5). We found little heterogeneity between studies (\( P = 0.53; I^2 = 0\% \)). Subgroup analyses according to study quality and intervention methods showed little evidence of interaction (Table 4).

We analyzed 12-month wound healing rate using 4 available studies. Our result showed the DR group significantly improved 12-month wound healing compared with IR group (RR 1.45; 95% CI = 1.26–1.66; \( P < 0.001 \); Figure S2, http://links.lww.com/MD/A394).

### Mortality Rate

Mortality rate was only reported in 4 studies. Neville et al\(^{18}\) described a mortality rate of 13.6% over 100 days in the DR group and of 28.6% in the IR group. Kabra et al\(^{27}\) reported a mortality rate of 10.3% over 6 months in the DR group and of 20.0% in the IR group. Varela et al\(^{15}\) showed 13% mortality rate in the DR group and 27% in the IR over 12 months, as well as a \( P \) value of 0.17. Söderström et al\(^{25}\) showed 1-year survival rates of 74% in both the DR and IR groups (\( P = 0.65 \)).

### Publication Bias

Publication bias was analyzed using a funnel plot, which was symmetrical (Figures 6 and 7).

### DISCUSSION

Our meta-analysis provided evidence that DR significantly improves time to amputation and time to wound healing for CLI patients. However, insufficient information was available to conduct a meta-analysis on mortality. The angiosome concept was constructed based on the anatomy of blood circulation, which demonstrates that superior blood supply can improve tissue growth and wound healing.

Three studies performed matching in their data analysis (Azuma et al, Iida et al, and Söderström et al).\(^{23–25}\) The result of Iida et al showed that DR significantly decreased the amputation rate (HR 0.66; 95% CI = 0.45–0.98; \( P = 0.04 \)). Azuma et al and Söderström et al were also comparing the outcome of time to wound healing. Söderström et al supported that DR group significantly increased wound healing rate (\( P < 0.001 \)). However,
### TABLE 2. The Patient Characteristics of the Included Studies

| Study          | DR/IR | Limbs | Age, y (SD) | Male (%) | Smoking (%) | CAD (%) | HTN (%) | DM (%) | ESRD (%) | Dyslipidemia (%) | Type of Treatment |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Neville et al (2009) | DR    | 22    | NA          | 51.9     | 33.3        | 33.3    | 29.6    | 85.2   | 48.1     | NA               | Surgery           |
|               | IR    | 21    | NA          | 55.2     | 37.9        | 24.1    | 28.3    | 89.7   | 55.2     |                  |                   |
| Varela et al (2010) | DR    | 45    | NA          | 62.2     | 35.6        | 33.3    | 73.3    | 82.2   | 4.4      | 31.1             | Surgery: 41, EVT: 35 |
|               | IR    | 31    | NA          | 54.8     | 45.2        | 22.6    | 71      | 77.4   | 3.2      | 27.8             |                   |
| Alexandrescu et al (2011) | DR    | 134   | 55% patient >70 y | NA       | 47          | 88      | 55      | 100    | 20       | 56               | EVT               |
|               | IR    | 98    | 51% patient >70 y | 48       | 41          | 88      | 100     | 15     | 64       |                  |                   |
| Blanes Orti et al (2011) | DR    | 18    | NA          | 66.7     | 50          | 38.8    | 77.7    | 72.2   | 38.8     | 50               | EVT               |
|               | IR    | 16    | NA          | 50       | 50          | 50      | 81.3    | 81.3   | 37.5     | 56.3             |                   |
| Azuma et al (2012) | DR    | 48    | 67.5        | 62       | NA          | NA      | NA      | 79     | 46       | NA               | Surgery and EVT   |
|               | IR    | 48    | 67.5        | 75       | NA          | NA      | 75      | 38     |          |                  |                   |
| Iida et al (2012) | DR    | 118   | 70 (11)     | 69       | NA          | 62      | 80      | 73     | 59       | 31               | EVT               |
|               | IR    | 118   | 69 (2)      | 66       | 54          | 76      | 73      | 67     | 25       |                  |                   |
| Söderström et al (2013) | DR    | 84    | 71.7 (11)   | 70       | 25          | 63      | 75      | 100    | NA       | 60               | EVT               |
|               | IR    | 84    | 70.3 (10.9) | 69       | 20          | 66      | 75      | 100    | 71       |                  |                   |
| Fossaceca et al (2013) | DR    | 167   | 75.5 (9.5)  | 67.7     | NA          | 32.3    | 61.7    | 100    | 7.4      | NA               | EVT               |
|               | IR    | 34    | NA          | 84       | 52          | 60      | 88      | 53.8   |          |                  |                   |
| Kabra et al (2013) | DR    | 39    | NA          | 82.1     | NA          | 17.9    | 59      | 76.9   | NA       | 53.8             | Surgery: 60.9%, EVT: 39.1% |
|               | IR    | 25    | NA          | 84       | 52          | 60      | 88      | 44     |          |                  |                   |

CAD = coronary artery disease, DM = diabetes mellitus, DR = angiosome model revascularization, ESRD = end-stage renal disease, EVT = endovascular treatment, HTN = hypertension, IR = nonangiosome model revascularization, NA = not available, NOS = Newcastle–Ottawa Scale, SD = standard deviation.

*Fossaceca et al presented outcome by patients.*
Azuma et al showed no difference for wound healing between 2 groups (P = 0.185).

Varela et al confirmed that DR model treatment improved the wound healing rate 12 months following intervention (92% vs 73%; P < 0.01) and limb salvage rate 24 months following intervention (93% vs 72%; P = 0.02) for CLI patients. Varela et al further revealed that distal peroneal arterial connections (collateral vessels) and the patent pedal arch played a significant role in wound healing and limb salvagability in CLI patients who were treated without using the DR model.19 This suggested that the possible cause of IR treatment failure resulted from inadequate vascular connections between the revascularized arteries and the ischemic region. Therefore, a patent pedal arch and peroneal distal branches that restore blood flow to the ischemic area through collateral vessels might show a similar result in limb salvagability and wound healing as that obtained through the specific source arteries.19

Although current AHA/ACC guidelines suggest open bypass still the preferred operation for patients who would live for >2 years, traditional surgery and EVT have been compared in several studies.31–35 One meta-analysis performed by Romiti et al compared surgical and EVT interventions and demonstrated no difference in the limb salvage rate (endovascular, 82.4% ± 3.4%; surgery, 82.3% ± 3%),36 Advantages of EVT intervention include less surgical trauma, a smaller wound, fewer local complications, and shorter hospital stays.31,32 However, subgroup analysis for comparisons between EVT intervention and surgical intervention could not be assessed in this study.

DM has been recognized as a critical predicting factor for wound healing. Failure of ulcers to heal in the feet of diabetic patients might have resulted from poor vascular connections between angiosomes, which provided inadequate blood perfusion to the ischemic areas. In addition, TASC II guidelines indicate that the amputation rate was 5 to 10 times higher in diabetic patients than in nondiabetic patients because blood flow to the microvascular beds appears to be reduced in the feet of diabetic patients.6 Furthermore, diabetic patients have an impaired host defense system against infections.37,38 Azuma et al23 stated that diabetes is one of the risk factors in prolonged tissue healing time. Iida et al showed that higher hemoglobin A1c levels were a significant predictor of major amputation in a

### TABLE 3. The Newcastle–Ottawa Scale of Included Studies

| Study                  | Selection | Comparability | Outcome | Overall |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Neville et al (2009)18 | 3         | 1             | 2       | 6       |
| Varela et al (2010)19  | 4         | 1             | 3       | 8       |
| Alexandrescu et al (2011)21 | 3     | 1             | 3       | 7       |
| Ori et al (2011)22     | 4         | 1             | 3       | 8       |
| Azuma et al (2012)23   | 3         | 2             | 3       | 8       |
| Iida et al (2012)24    | 3         | 2             | 3       | 8       |
| Söderström et al (2013)25 | 3     | 2             | 3       | 8       |
| Fossaceca et al (2013)26 | 3      | 1             | 3       | 7       |
| Kabra et al (2013)27   | 3         | 1             | 1       | 5       |

### TABLE 4. Hazard Ratios for Time to Amputation and Time to Wound Healing for Patients Receiving Angiosome Model Target Revascularization Compared With Nonangiosome Group According to Meta-Analysis and Subgroup Analysis of All Trials

| Characteristic                | HR (95% CI)                  | Test for Heterogeneity | Test for Interaction |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Time to amputation           |                              |                        |                      |
| Overall (5 studies)          | 0.61 (0.46–0.80) P = 0.0004 | P = 0.69, I² = 0%      |                      |
| Subgroup analysis stratified by study quality |                     |                        |                      |
| High quality (NOS ≥8) (3 studies) | 0.58 (0.38–0.88) P = 0.01 | P = 0.35, I² = 5%      | P = 0.83             |
| Low quality (NOS ≤7) (2 studies) | 0.62 (0.41–0.94) P = 0.02 | P = 0.75, I² = 0%      |                      |
| Subgroup analysis stratified by operation method |                     |                        |                      |
| Total EVT (4 studies)         | 0.64 (0.48–0.84) P = 0.001 | P = 0.95, I² = 0%      | P = 0.17             |
| EVT and surgical intervention (1 study) | 0.26 (0.08–0.90) P = 0.03 | NA                     |                      |
| Time to wound healing        |                              |                        |                      |
| Overall (5 studies)          | 1.38 (1.13–1.69) P = 0.002 | P = 0.53, I² = 0%      |                      |
| Subgroup analysis stratified by study quality |                     |                        |                      |
| High quality (NOS ≥8) (3 studies) | 1.49 (1.08–2.04) P = 0.01 | P = 0.26, I² = 25%     | P = 0.49             |
| Low quality (NOS ≤7) (2 studies) | 1.27 (0.94–1.73) P = 0.12 | P = 0.98, I² = 0%      |                      |
| Subgroup analysis stratified by operation method |                     |                        |                      |
| Total EVT (2 studies)         | 1.56 (1.10–2.22) P = 0.01 | P = 0.31, I² = 5%      | P = 0.40             |
| EVT and surgical intervention (3 studies) | 1.29 (1.01–1.66) P = 0.04 | P = 0.51, I² = 0%      |                      |

CI = confidence interval, EVT = endovascular treatment, HR = hazard ratio, NA = not available, NOS = Newcastle–Ottawa Scale.
They postulated that the increased risk is most likely attributable to poor periprocedural blood glycemic control rather than to the presence of DM during the postoperative period. Three studies compared DR in diabetic patients. However, our study compared the outcomes of these 3 studies with the others, which had a distinct percentage of diabetic patients (>64%), and minimal heterogeneity was identified (P = 0.40; I² = 0%). No other studies comparing diabetic and nondiabetic patients have been published. DR might have beneficial effects for wound healing in diabetic patients; however, the effects on nondiabetic patients require further investigation.

Azuma et al proved that DR treatment could significantly shorten the time needed for wound healing in the entire study cohort, and that it improved limb salvage rate in end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients (P < 0.01). However, after propensity-score matching, the differences between limb salvage rate and wound healing rate in the DR and IR groups were lost. Azuma et al concluded that the angiosome concept might be unimportant in the field of bypass surgery, unlike EVT intervention.

However, our analysis revealed that the DR model concept could be consistently applied to all patients, regardless of surgical or EVT intervention.

ESRD was a crucial risk factor for wound healing and limb salvagability, and several studies have reported that patients with ESRD have higher amputation rates. Johnson et al postulated that healing problems account for higher amputation rates rather than graft thrombosis. Thus, some studies have recommended that bypass surgery should be performed on carefully selected ESRD patients because of potential negative outcomes. Some studies have reported that hypoalbuminemia, which might result from inflammation instead of malnutrition, detrimentally related to the life prognosis of ESRD patients. Azuma et al separated their patients into 3 groups: non-ERSD, ESRD without severely low albuminemia, and ESRD with severely low albuminemia (<3.0 g/dL). The wound healing rate of the ESRD in the low albuminemia group was significantly worse than in the other groups (P < 0.01). Their subgroup analysis demonstrated that DR
significantly improved wound healing rate both in non-ESRD patients and in ESRD patients as compared with IR. However, comparing DR and IR in all patients showed no beneficial effect in their study ($P = 0.185$). They concluded that ESRD and the level of serum albumin were more critical than the angiosome concept.23

Cilostazol was typically used in PAOD patients as an antiplatelet drug.47 The improvement of microvascular circulation has been reported as one of the clinical benefits of cilostazol.48 Iida et al formed 2 groups and recorded the outcome of skin perfusion pressure (in mm Hg) on the time before and after surgery.24 Skin perfusion pressure was similar to that before intervention ($1.6 \pm 0.9$ with cilostazol therapy vs $1.6 \pm 0.8$ without, $P = 0.91$), and it was statistically higher after EVT in the cilostazol-treated group than in the noncilostazol-treated group ($51 \pm 19$ vs $45 \pm 19$, $P = 0.04$).24 Therefore, cilostazol might help to improve microcirculation; however, further evidence of amputation prevention or improvement in wound healing is necessary.

In this study, we performed throughout literature searches. For evaluation of time-to-event outcomes, we utilized HR as the metric of the summary effect size. The calculated HR was the relative hazard of an event occurring in the DR group compared with that of the IR group. From our result, it suggested that patients who received DR had decreasing risk of limb amputation and wound unhealing by 0.61 (95% CI = 0.46–0.80) and 1.38 (95% CI = 1.13–1.69) in the PAOD patients compared with patients received IR interventions. However, our study has several limitations. First, all included studies were retrospective comparative studies. Angiosome concept was delicate. It was trivial to approach the target feeding artery for the ischemia area. Therefore, there were too many operation methods for vascular access that all the retrospective studies could not have a very specific and appropriate design. Second, another source of bias might come from the confounding bias because of patients’ condition. Only Azuma et al, Iida et al, and Söderström et al performed matching in their analyses. The bias existed among these studies resulting from the differences of the selection and grouping criteria for these patients. The mortality rate of the patients treated with IR was higher than those treated with DR might imply that the patients in the IR had more comorbidities than those in the DR group. Third, no consensus was obtained in

FIGURE 4. Forest plot comparing time to wound healing, stratified by study quality.

FIGURE 5. Forest plot comparing time to wound healing, stratified by operation method.
In conclusion, the angiosome model of revascularization was beneficial for patients with critical lower limb ischemia when considering limb salvagability and wound healing. Nonetheless, randomized controlled studies are necessary to confirm our results. Increasing the limb salvage rate is anticipated to improve daily activity and could prolong the survival of patients. Thus, a broad prospective study should be conducted to confirm the effect of the angiosome model concept. All the following characteristics should be recorded in detail, including the wound condition and location with standard recording system, the treatment of the wound (debridement, antibiotics, and the dressing of wound), the detail description of the stenotic status, the collateral vessels, and the condition of the pedal arch. Collateral vessels should be defined more carefully because some patients, especially diabetic patients, are collateral artery-dominant blood supply. Crucial confounding factors, such as DM, ESRD, serum albumin levels, and medications, should also be reported and analyzed.

REFERENCES

1. Frykberg RG, Zgonis T, Armstrong DG, et al. Diabetic foot disorders: a clinical practice guideline (2006 revision). J Foot Ankle Surg. 2006;45 (suppl):S1–S66.
2. Norgren L, Hiatt WR, Dormandy JA, et al. Inter-Society Consensus for the Management of Peripheral Arterial Disease (TASC II). J Vasc Surg. 2007;45 (suppl S):SS–S67.
3. Olin JW, Allie DE, Belkin M, et al. ACCF/AHA/ACR/SCAI/SIR/SVM/SVS 2010 performance measures for adults with peripheral artery disease: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Performance Measures, the American College of Radiology, the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions, the Society for Interventional Radiology, the Society for Vascular Medicine, the Society for Vascular Nursing, and the Society for Vascular Surgery (Writing Committee to Develop Clinical Performance Measures for Peripheral Artery Disease). J Am Coll Cardiol. 2010;56:2147–2181.
4. Cavanagh PR, Lipsky BA, Bradbury AW, et al. Treatment for diabetic foot ulcers. Lancet. 2005;366:1725–1735.
5. Burns P, Gough S, Bradbury AW. Management of peripheral arterial disease in primary care. BMJ. 2003;326:584–588.
6. Frykberg RG. Diabetic foot ulcerations: management and adjunctive therapy. Clin Pediatr Med Surg. 2003;20:709–728.
7. Taylor GI, Palmer JH. The vascular territories (angiosomes) of the body: experimental study and clinical applications. Br J Plast Surg. 1987;40:113–141.
8. Setacci C, De Donato G, Setacci F, et al. Ischemic foot: definition, etiology and angiosome concept. J Cardiovasc Surgery. 2010;51:223–231.
9. Clemens MW, Attinger CE. Angiosomes and wound care in the diabetic foot. Foot Ankle Clin. 2010;15:439–464.
10. Alexandrescu V, Hubermon G. Primary infragenicular angioplasty for diabetic neuroischemic foot ulcers following the angiosome distribution: a new paradigm for the vascular interventionist? Diabetes Metab Syndr Obes. 2011;4:327–336.
11. Huang TY, Huang TS, Wang YC, et al. Angiosome versus non-angiosome target revascularization for treatment of lower limb ischemia. PROSPERO 2013; CRD42013004401. Available at: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.asp?id=CRD42013004401. Accessed April 22, 2014.
12. Higgins JPT, Green S, editors. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, Version 5.1.0. London: The Cochrane Collaboration; 2011. (http://handbook.cochrane.org/).
13. Wells GA, Shea B, O’Connell D, et al. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for assessing the quality of nonrandomised studies in meta-analyses [webpage on the Internet] Ottawa, ON: Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; 2011. [Accessed April 22, 2014].
14. Parmar MKB, Torri V, Stewart L. Extracting summary statistics to perform meta-analyses of the published literature for survival endpoints. Stat Med. 1998;17:2815–2834.
15. Tierney JF, Stewart LA, Ghersi D, et al. Practical methods for incorporating summary time-to-event data into meta-analysis. Trials. 2007;8:16.

16. Higgins JPT, Thompson SG, Deeks JJ, et al. Measuring inconsistency in meta-analyses. BMJ. 2003;327:557–560.

17. Ioannidis JPA, Patsopoulos NA, Evangelou E. Uncertainty in heterogeneity estimates in meta-analyses. BMJ. 2007;335:914–916.

18. Neville RF, Attinger CE, Bulan EJ, et al. Revascularization of a specific angiome for limb salvage: does the target artery matter? Ann Vasc Surg. 2009;23:367–373.

19. Varela C, Acin F, de Haro J, et al. The role of foot collateral vessels on ulcer healing and limb salvage after successful endovascular and surgical distal procedures according to an angiome model. Vasc Endovascular Surg. 2010;44:654–660.

20. Iida O, Nanto S, Uematsu M, et al. Importance of the angiome concept for endovascular therapy in patients with critical limb ischemia. Catheter Cardiovasc Interv. 2010;75:830–836.

21. Alexandre N, Vincent G, Azdad K, et al. A reliable approach to diabetic neuroischemic foot wounds: below-the-knee angiome-oriented angioplasty. J Endovasc Ther. 2011;18:376–387.

22. Blanes Orti P, Riera Vazquez R, Puigmaci Minguell R, et al. Percutaneous revascularisation of specific angiome in critical limb ischemia. Angiology. 2011;63:11–17.

23. Azuma N, Uchida H, Kokubo T, et al. Factors influencing wound healing of critical ischaemic foot after bypass surgery: is the angiome important in selecting bypass target artery? Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2012;43:322–328.

24. Iida O, Soga Y, Hirano K, et al. Long-term results of direct and indirect endovascular revascularization based on the angiome concept in patients with critical limb ischemia presenting with isolated below-the-knee lesions. J Vasc Surg. 2012;55:363–370.

25. Söderström M, Alback A, Biancari F, et al. Angiome-targeted infrapopliteal endovascular revascularization for treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. J Vasc Surg. 2013;57:427–435.

26. Fossaceca R, Guzzardi G, Corini P, et al. Endovascular treatment of diabetic foot in a selected population of patients with below-the-knee disease: is the angiome model effective? Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol. 2013;36:637–644.

27. Kabra A, Suresh KR, Vivekanand V, et al. Outcomes of angiome and non-angiome targeted revascularization in critical lower limb ischemia. J Vasc Surg. 2013;57:44–49.

28. Rashid H, Slim H, Zayed H, et al. The impact of arterial pedal arch quality and angiome revascularization on foot tissue loss healing and infrapopliteal bypass outcome. J Vasc Surg. 2013;57:1219–1226.

29. Fontaine R, Kim M, Kiency R. Surgical treatment of peripheral circulation disorders. Helv Chir Acta. 1954;21:499–533.

30. Rutherford RB, Baker JD, Ernst C, et al. Recommended standards for reports dealing with lower extremity ischemia: revised version. J Vasc Surg. 1997;26:517–538.

31. Adam DJ, Beard JD, Cleveland T, et al. Bypass versus angioplasty in severe ischaemia of the leg (BASIL): multicentre, randomised controlled trial. Lancet. 2005;366:1925–1934.

32. Bradbury AW, Adam DJ, Bell J, et al. Bypass versus Angioplasty in Severe Ischaemia of the Leg (BASIL) trial: an intention-to-treat analysis of amputation-free and overall survival in patients randomly assigned to a bypass surgery-first or a balloon angioplasty-first revascularization strategy. J Vasc Surg. 2010;51 (5 suppl):S5–S175.

33. Albers M, Romiti M, Brochado-Neto FC, et al. Meta-analysis of alternate autologous vein bypass grafts to infrapopliteal arteries. J Vasc Surg. 2005;42:449–455.

34. Wolf GL, Wilson SE, Cross AP, et al. Surgery or balloon angioplasty for peripheral vascular disease: a randomized clinical trial. Principal investigators and their Associates of Veterans Administration Cooperative Study Number 199. J Vasc Inter Radiol. 1993;4:639–648.

35. van der Zaan ES, Legemate DA, Prins MH, et al. Angioplasty or bypass for superficial femoral artery disease? A randomised controlled trial. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2004;28:132–137.

36. Romiti M, Albers M, Brochado-Neto FC, et al. Meta-analysis of infrapopliteal angioplasty for chronic critical leg ischemia. J Vasc Surg. 2008;47:975–981.

37. Turina M, Fry DE, Polk HC Jr. Acute hyperglycemia and the innate immune system: clinical, cellular, and molecular aspects. Crit Care Med. 2005;33:1624–1633.

38. Peppa M, Stavroulakis P, Raptis SA. Advanced glycosylation products and impaired diabetic wound healing. Wound Repair Regen. 2009;17:461–472.

39. Johnson BL, Glickman MH, Bandyk DF, et al. Failure of foot salvage in patients with end-stage renal disease after surgical revascularization. J Vasc Surg. 1995;22:280–285.

40. Ramdev P, Rayan SS, Sheahan M, et al. A decade experience with infrainguinal revascularization in a dialysis-dependent patient population. J Vasc Surg. 2002;36:969–974.

41. Biancari F, Kantonen I, Matzke S, et al. Infrainguinal endovascular and bypass surgery for critical leg ischemia in patients on long-term dialysis. Ann Vasc Surg. 2002;16:210–214.

42. Albers M, Romiti M, Braganca Pereira CA, et al. A meta-analysis of infrapopliteal arterial reconstruction in patients with end-stage renal disease. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2001;22:294–300.

43. Albers M, Romiti M, De Luccia N, et al. An updated meta-analysis of infrapopliteal arterial reconstruction in patients with end-stage renal disease. J Vasc Surg. 2007;45:536–542.

44. Schanzer A, Goodney PP, Li Y, et al. Validation of the PII CLI risk score for the prediction of amputation-free survival in patients undergoing infrapopliteal autogenous vein bypass for critical limb ischemia. J Vasc Surg. 2009;50:769–775.

45. de Mutsert R, Grootendorst DC, Indemans F, et al. Association between serum albumin and mortality in dialysis patients is partly explained by inflammation, and not by malnutrition. J Ren Nutr. 2009;19:127–135.

46. Owen WF Jr, Lew NL, Liu Y, et al. The urea reduction ratio and serum albumin concentration as predictors of mortality in patients undergoing hemodialysis. N Engl J Med. 1993;329:1001–1006.

47. Takahashi S, Oida K, Fujiiwa R, et al. Effect of cilostazol, a cyclic AMP phosphodiesterase inhibitor, on the proliferation of rat aortic smooth muscle cells in culture. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol. 1992;20:900–906.

48. Miyashita Y, Saito S, Miyamoto A, et al. Cilostazol increases skin perfusion pressure in severely ischemic limbs. Angiology. 2011;62:15–17.