

# A multidisciplinary team approach for vascular disease: The role of cardiologists and vascular specialists

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# Disclosure

Speaker 's name:

Ana Paula Mollon

I have the following potential conflicts of interest to report:

- Consulting
- Employment in industry
- Stockholder of a healthcare company
- Owner of a healthcare company
- Other(s)
  
- I do not have any potential conflict of interest

# Multidisciplinary team creation: Background

- Peripheral vascular disease has a high prevalence (1 out of 5 patients over 65 suffer from this disease).
- The probable reasons are the incipient epidemic of diabetes, obesity and advanced age and the increasing prevalence of atherosclerosis.
- However this disease is underdiagnosed and undertreated, and leads to inadequate care and delayed treatment.

# Argentina is not an exception

- Inadequate awareness of the disease among physicians and patients.
- Poor coordination between cardiologists and vascular specialists (Interventional cardiologists and vascular surgeons).
- High major amputation rates.
- Inefficient method to ensure the follow-up.

# A change was needed...

- We focused on two main strategies:
  1. Improving diagnosis: We have increased the awareness of vascular disease among generalists and cardiologists through seminars, meetings and other targeted educational efforts. We have developed a screening program.
  2. Creating a multidisciplinary team : We have provided an integral and continuum care instead of giving only endovascular treatment and eventually we have optimized the final results in the vascular disease.

# Improving the diagnosis: Cardiologist's role

- Implementing a screening program among the population to identify risk patients.
- According to the guidelines, they are defined as older than 70 years or over 50 years with history of diabetes or smokers.
- They have been evaluated using:
  - ✓ Who/Rose questionnaire
  - ✓ Examination of the pulses in the lower limbs
  - ✓ Ankle-Braquial Index.

# Fist step: a quick evaluation

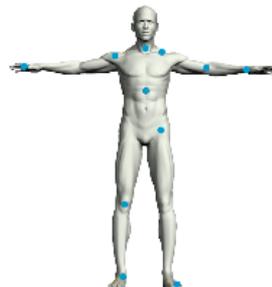
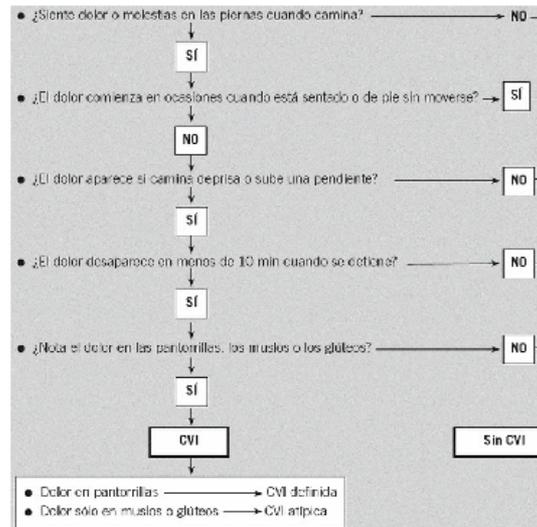
## CUESTIONARIO DE ARTERIOPATIA PERIFERICA

NOMBRE:

EDAD:

FR: HTA DBT TBQ DLP OBS SED ANT.C.V.

FECHA:



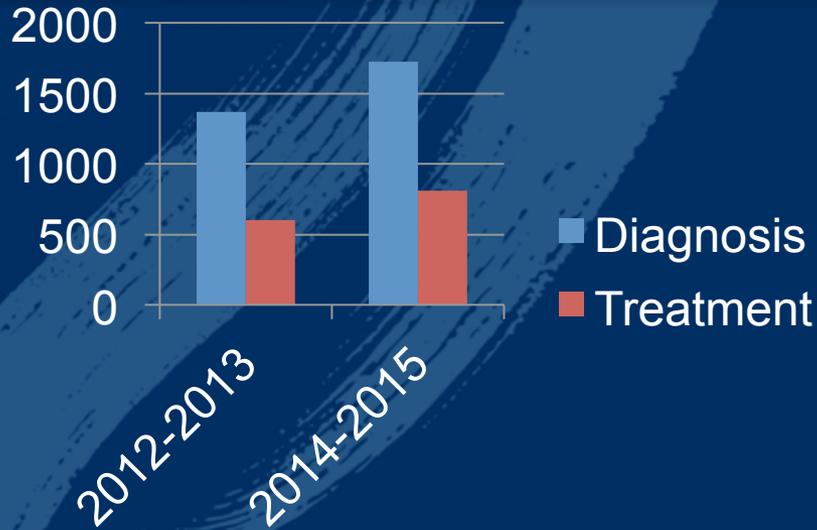
# Improving Cardiologist's role in diagnosis

- Peripheral disease patients share the same risk factors, medical management and principles of revascularization as cardiovascular patients.
- Cardiologists should be aware and able to be the first to diagnose peripheral arteries diseases.
- Long-term prognosis of patients who suffer from lower extremity arterial disease will be determined by the presence and extent of associated coronary artery disease.
- Cardiologists should play a key role in the diagnosis and follow-up.

# Multidisciplinary team

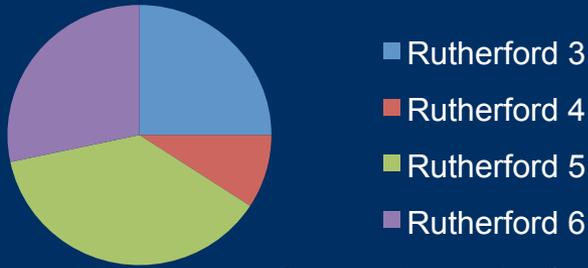
- Our team is formed by vascular surgeons, generalists, cardiologists, interventional cardiologists, diabetic specialists, orthopedic surgeons and infectious disease specialists.
- Each discipline participates in the decisions about the treatment according to its own perspective.
- We are optimizing a coordinated treatment and personalized follow-up.

# Results in our hospital



- Increase in the number of patients (35% in endovascular treatment).

## Clinical characteristics



- Significant increase in treatment of patients with intermittent claudication (30%)

## Decrease in major amputation rate (6%)



# Take-home message

- Cardiologists should play a leading role in the diagnosis and follow-up.
- Multidisciplinary teams introduce a new integral vision to treat this disease.
- The team has been able to build bridges and break interdisciplinary barriers so as to create an effective horizontal integration, allowing a complete management of these patients.
- Every effort should be made to minimize amputation rates.

Thank you for your attention!!



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