

How to Perform Vascular Assessment in a Person with Diabetes and a Foot Ulcer?

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Palpation of foot pulses

- Pedal Doppler arterial waveforms
- Ankle systolic pressure and ankle brachial index
- Toe systolic pressure and toe brachial index

- *Triphasic Doppler waveforms*
- *Ankle brachial index 0.9-1.3*
- *Toe brachial index ≥ 0.75*

PAD is less likely

Presence of foot pulses does not reliably exclude PAD

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- Severe ischemia:**
- Ankle systolic pressure $< 50\text{mmHg}$ or
 - Ankle brachial index < 0.5 or
 - Toe pressure $< 30\text{mmHg}$

Abnormal values but not severe ischemia: Is there infection or ulcer deeper than skin?

No

Irrespective of the results of bedside tests, when the ulcer is not healing within 4-6 weeks:

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CONSULTATION WITH VASCULAR SPECIALIST



Posterior tibial artery



Dorsalis pedis artery



Ankle systolic pressure



Toe systolic pressure