TASC II: A Focus on Opportunities

The new ‘Transatlantic Inter-society Consensus’ guidelines have attracted criticism from some specialists who have queried some of the details of the guidance. However a debate over technical issues must not be allowed to detract from the opportunity that the document presents.

Many of the most pressing unmet medical needs for patients with PAD can be related to a lack of awareness of this condition, its impact on patients’ health, and its appropriate treatment. Although PAD is very common (with prevalence estimated at 16% in those aged over 55 years) it very often goes undiagnosed. Unfortunately, those patients who do receive a diagnosis of PAD often fail to receive appropriate therapy. This underdiagnosis and lack of appropriate treatment is particularly worrying given the magnitude of the burden associated with PAD. The TASC authors have achieved a remarkable consensus, providing clear instruction on the diagnosis of PAD, and its medical and surgical management. Finding common ground on a complex issue is not easy. It has been achieved across geographies, across disciplines, and across societies. Thus alongside the current technical debate I would still urge promotion of the current guidelines, because they highlight the need to improve patient care in PAD and at the same time provide an excellent tool to help achieve this.

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