The ankle-brachial index-a classification of the patient education websites

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Abstract
The authors present a classification of the most important types of online resources regarding the ankle-brachial index, for patients with peripheral arterial disease and other interested people (websites of national institutes, universities of medicine, regional hospitals, medical societies and associations etc).

Keywords: patient education, websites, peripheral arterial disease, ankle-brachial index

Rezumat
Autorii prezintă o clasificare a celor mai importante surse online de informare pentru pacienții cu arteriopatie obliterantă periferică și pentru alte persoane interesate, referitoare la indicele de presiune sistolică gleznă-braț (situri ale unor instituții nationale, universități de medicină, spitale regionale, societăți și asociații medicale etc).

Cuvinte cheie: educația pacientului, internet, arteriopatie obliterantă periferică, indice de presiune sistolică gleznă-braț

Many websites provide easy-to-read information about the diagnostic and the management of peripheral arterial disease (PAD)-clinical features, diagnostic tests, medical treatment, catheter-based interventions, and reconstructive surgery.

One of the most important diagnostic parameters of PAD is the ankle-brachial index (ABI). It is the ratio between the systolic blood pressure at the ankle and the systolic blood pressure measured at the arm. The ABI of less than or equal to 0.9 is a marker of limb ischemia and a criterion of PAD diagnostic [1,2].

The online patient education resources regarding ABI may be classified as follows:
• National Institutes and Organizations
• Scientific Societies and Professional Associations
• Universities of Medicine, University Medical Centers
• Regional Hospitals
• Other Healthcare providers (Heart & Vascular Institutes, Medical Associates)
• Support Groups, Associations and Coalitions
• Health foundations
• Companies providing preventive health screenings
• Medical supply companies
• Medical designers
• Pharmaceutical Industry
• Medical Journals with Patient Pages
• Patient portals initiated by Scientific Societies and Professional Associations
• Medical Information Websites Offering Evidence-based Approach
• General Websites offering medical information
• Free content encyclopedia Web-based projects
- Open Content Networks
- Websites financially supported from personal funds

**National Institutes and Organizations:**
- [http://americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org) American Heart Association > Conditions > More > Peripheral Artery Disease > Symptoms and Diagnosis of PAD > Diagnosing PAD > Ankle–brachial index (ABI) [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/More/PeripheralArteryDisease/Symptoms-and-Diagnosis-of-PAD_UCM_301306_Article.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/More/PeripheralArteryDisease/Symptoms-and-Diagnosis-of-PAD_UCM_301306_Article.jsp) (website accessed on May 29, 2010)

**Universities of Medicine, University Medical Centers:**
- [http://www.stanfordhospital.com](http://www.stanfordhospital.com) Stanford Hospital & Clinics. Stanford University Medical Center > Clinical Services > Medical Services > Vascular Laboratory (website accessed on June 2, 2010)
- [http://ucsfhealth.org](http://ucsfhealth.org) University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medical Center > Health Library > Medical Tests > D > Doppler Ultrasound Exam of Arm or Leg (website accessed on June 2, 2010)

**Regional Hospitals:**
- [http://healthlibrary.b Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), Boston, MA. A Teaching Affiliate of Harvard Medical School > Adult Health Library > Cardiovascular Diseases > Vascular Conditions and Diseases > Peripheral Vascular Disease > Peripheral Artery Disease > How is peripheral artery disease diagnosed? > Ankle-brachial index (ABI) (website accessed on June 2, 2010)
- [http://www.diabetes.usyd.edu.au](http://www.diabetes.usyd.edu.au) Diabetes Ambu-
latory Care Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia > Diabetes Foot Disease > What is peripheral vascular disease? (website accessed on May 30, 2010)

- http://www.dmhcares.org Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur, IL > Services > Radiology > Diagnostic Radiology Screenings > Ankle-brachial index (ABI) screen (website accessed on May 30, 2010)


- http://www.riverfallsareahospital.com River Falls Area Hospital River Falls, WI > Search > Ankle-Brachial Index (articles) (website accessed on May 30, 2010)

- http://www.thecaregroup.com The Care Group, St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana, Indianapolis, IN > Patients > The Vascular Institute > Peripheral Vascular Disease > Diagnostic Services > Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) Test (website accessed on May 30, 2010)

Other Healthcare providers (Heart & Vascular Institutes, Medical Associates):


- http://www.centennialheart.com Centennial Heart (Cardiovascular Consultants Specializing in Consultative, Diagnostic & Interventional Cardiology, Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky) > Screenings and Diagnostic Testing > Ankle-Brachial Index Test (ABI) (website accessed on May 30, 2010)


- http://www.clevelandclinic.org The Cleveland Clinic, OH > Health Information > Diseases & Conditions > P > Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) Overview > How is PAD detected? (website accessed on June 3, 2010)


Support Groups, Associations and Coalitions:


Health Foundations:


- http://www.vdf.org Vascular Disease Foundation > Resources > Pamphlets > Focus on the ABI > What you need to know about the ankle-brachial index (ABI) test for peripheral arterial disease or PAD (website accessed on May 30, 2010)

- http://www.vdf.org Vascular Disease Foundation > Interactive Learning > Ask the Doctor > Archives > November 21. Dr. Kerry Stewart Answered your Questions about Exercise and PAD > Is the ABI the only test used to diagnose PAD or is there another way to know if I have it? (website accessed on May 30, 2010)

No 1) > Vascular Terms that Start with the Letter "A" > ABI or Ankle-Brachial Index Measurement

**Companies providing preventive health screenings**

- Medical supply companies:

**Medical designers:**


**Pharmaceutical Industry:**


**Medical Journals with Patient Pages:**


**Patient portals initiated by Scientific Societies and Professional Associations:**

- http://www.familydoctor.org Health Information from the American Academy of Family Physicians > Conditions A-Z > P > Peripheral Arterial Disease and Claudication > How can my doctor be sure I have PAD or claudication? (website accessed on June 5, 2010)

**Medical Information Websites Offering Evidence-based Approach:**

- http://www.healthboards.com Health Message
Boards > Search Boards > Ankle Brachial Index > ABI results (Board: Heart Disorders) (website accessed on May 30, 2010)

• http://www.healthcentral.com HealthCentral Network > Search > Ankle Brachial Index (website accessed on June 5, 2010)

• http://www.healthline.com Healthline (Health Search Engine and Free Medical Information) > Search > Ankle Brachial Index > Results from the Web (article) (website accessed on June 5, 2010)


• http://www.patient.co.uk Patient UK > Information for patients > Information Leaflets > Condition Leaflets > Heart/Blood Vessels > Peripheral Arterial Disease in Legs > How is peripheral arterial disease diagnosed? (website accessed on June 5, 2010)

• http://www.uptodate.com UpToDate Patient Information > For Patients > Search > Heart Disease > Claudication > Patient information: Claudication (peripheral arterial disease > Claudication Diagnosis > Ankle-arm index (website accessed on June 5, 2010)


**General Websites offering medical information:**


• http://health.yahoo.net > Health Search > Ankle Brachial Index (website accessed on June 5, 2010)

**Free content encyclopedia Web-based projects:**


**Open Content Networks:**

• http://www.associatedcontent.com Associated Content (AC-an Open Content Network) > Search > Ankle Brachial Index (website accessed on June 5, 2010)

**Websites financially supported from personal funds:**

• http://www.vascular.co.nz Damien Mosquera Ltd > General vascular disease > Assessment of vascular disease > Hand held Doppler

**References**
