

# **The Podiatrist Role in Diabetic Care**

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# OBJECTIVES

What is podiatry?

What is a diabetic foot exam?

Benefits of podiatry care

# Podiatric Medicine

- 9 Medical Schools Nationwide
- Applicants complete:
  - a 4-year undergraduate degree
  - Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

# Podiatric Medical School Curriculum

## Year 1

Gross Anatomy, Neuroanatomy, Cell biology, Biochemistry, Embryology, Microbiology, Physical diagnosis, Biomechanics

## Year 2

Pathology, Pharmacology, Biomechanics, Radiology, Podiatric Medicine, Pathophysiology, Intro to Surgery

## Year 3

Internal Medicine, Neurology, Dermatology, Podopediatrics, Podiatric Medicine & Surgery, Behavioral health, Women's health, Radiology,

## Year 4

Clinical rotations

# Graduate Medical Education

- All graduates must complete a 3-year residency
- Residencies teach basic biomechanics, office podiatry, and surgery
- Passage of a 3-step licensure examination
- Passage of board exam is required for board certification
- A Medical license is required to practice podiatric medicine in every state

## The Role of Podiatry in Diabetic Care

# Prevention!

# Diabetic Foot Exam

Recommendation of frequency of foot exams is based on results of the exam

History

General inspection

Dermatological (skin) exam

Neurological (sensation) exam

Vascular (blood flow) exam

Musculoskeletal (deformity) exam

# History

General questions

sensation, circulation, vision, renal problems

Last visit to medical doctor

History of previous amputation or ulcers

Smoking/tobacco use



# Inspection

Overall look at feet without socks and shoes

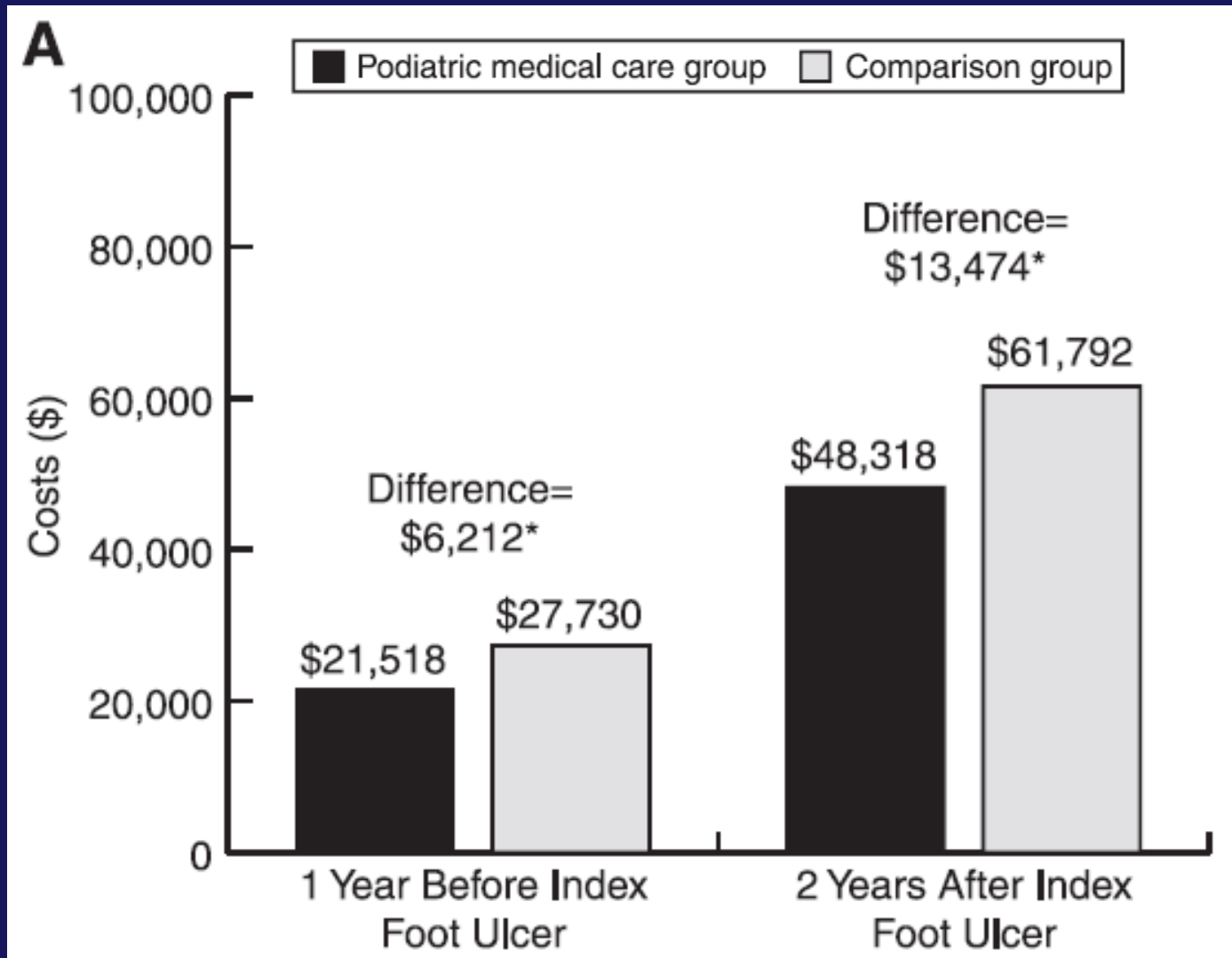
Look at shoes for:

- Toe wear at tip of shoe

- Foreign objects

- Breakdown on inner sole

# Cost-Effectiveness of Podiatry in Patients with Foot Ulcers



# Amputation Rates in Patients with Foot Ulcers

Among non-Medicare patients:

Podiatrists decrease amputations by 20%

Podiatrists decrease hospitalization by 26%

Among Medicare patients:

Podiatrists decrease amputations by 23%

Podiatrists decrease hospitalization by 9%

# Conclusions

What can we do for you?

Lecture

Offer input on foot health for policies

Foot screenings

[MPMA.org](http://MPMA.org)