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Title	Sex differences in the outcomes of peripheral arterial disease: a population-based cohort study
Authors	Mohamad A. Hussain MD, Thomas F. Lindsay MDCM MSc, Muhammad Mamdani PharmD MPH, Xuesong Wang MSc, Subodh Verma MD PhD, Mohammed Al-Omran MD MSc
<b>Reviewer 1</b>	Yu, Amy Ying Xin
Institution	University of Calgary, Neurosciences
General comments	<p>The authors of this retrospective population cohort study used administrative data to evaluate sex differences in vascular outcomes and mortality in peripheral arterial disease. Relevant topic, well-written paper, and rigorous descriptions of the methodology. A strength of this paper is that it is a complete population study.</p> <p>Major comments: In Table 2, the authors should consider adding a column for adjusted event rate per 1,000 person years in addition to the adjusted hazard ratio.</p> <p>The last paragraph of the "Interpretations" section need to be expanded. The authors found that women were less likely to undergo minor amputation and arterial bypass and that they were at an increased risk for acute MI. These results were significant after adjusting for covariates. Therefore, it is not enough to say that this may be due to increase diabetes and comorbidity in men and that women were older in the study. Women are often inappropriately undertreated in vascular disease. For instance, multiple population studies from across the world show that women are consistently receiving less anticoagulation for stroke prevention in the context of atrial fibrillation. If women in this study have an increased risk for future acute MI, suggesting they are at high risk of vascular event, are they being inappropriately undertreated with amputation and arterial bypass? Or are they getting inappropriate referrals to vascular surgeons? Entry criteria into the study involves a vascular surgeon consultation. Would it be possible to account for baseline severity?</p> <p>Minor comments: The term "gender" should be changed to "sex" as the latter is what is meant</p>
<b>Reviewer 2</b>	<b>Woodley-Cook, Joel</b>
Institution	University Hospital Network, Vascular and Interventional Radiology
General comments	<p>The author's present a very well written study describing the sex differences in the outcome of PAD. This information will have an impact on the practice of many clinicians and can be used to educate patient's about their potential outcome. As mentioned in the paper, this study builds on the the strength of other studies and not only compliments other studies, but improves on them.</p> <p>I feel there are only minor changes to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Was REB approval obtained and consent waived? Please indicate.</li> <li>- Was access to health care addressed? On page 11 "healthcare service utilization" is mentioned but I feel access to health care should also be addressed.</li> <li>- Page 13: The author's mention coding for major CV and limb outcomes. Are there codes for PTA?</li> </ul>