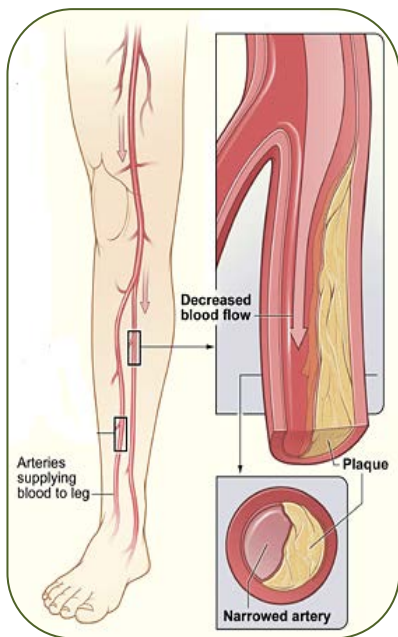


PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE (PAD)

What are the peripheral arteries?

The peripheral arteries are the blood vessels that carry oxygen-rich blood away from the heart to the upper and lower extremities. These arteries are essential as they supply blood to the arms and legs.



What is Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)?

(PAD) is the narrowing or blockage of the arteries in the upper and lower extremities due to plaque build-up. The process that blocks these arteries (atherosclerosis) is basically the same as that which causes coronary artery disease and carotid artery disease. The slow build-up of plaque is caused by high blood pressure, diabetes, tobacco use, high blood cholesterol and other modifiable risk factors. Over time, this narrowing may eventually become so severe that a blockage decreases blood flow to the legs and may tragically cause gangrene and subsequent amputation. A stroke or heart attack can also occur if a piece of plaque or a blood clot breaks off from the wall of the peripheral arteries and travels to the smaller arteries of the brain or heart.

Solution

The identification of PAD is usually based on an audible ultrasound examination of the posterior tibial arteries of the legs called ABI (ankle brachial index). Using harmless and painless sound waves and blood pressure cuffs, PAD can be detected. The ABI is the most effective, affordable way to detect PAD early. Early detection remains one of the best weapons to detect PAD and prevent amputation.

