

Locate the angiosomes of the lower leg.



The Angiosome Concept

The angiosome concept of perfusion was first related in 1987 by Taylor and Palmer.¹ It delineates specific three-dimensional vascular territories of the human body supplied by characteristic sources of arteries. This concept may help the vascular interventionalist treat tissue defects caused by critical limb ischemia (CLI) by enabling specific selection of targeted arteries according to the location of the patient's foot ulcer.

Recanalizing preferential source vessels for distinct ischemic territories can facilitate wound healing and may increase limb preservation.^{2,3}

In a recent retrospective analysis gathering specific Wagner 1-4 diabetic foot ulcers in Rutherford categories 5-6 ischemic limbs, Alexandrescu et al. applied the angiosome concept in primary below-the-knee angioplasty for limb salvage. They reported complete healing of foot ulcers with or without minor limb amputation in 79% of 124 limbs,³ matching similar preliminary results observed by other reports to date.²

1. Taylor GI, Palmer JH. The vascular territories (angiosomes) of the body: experimental study and clinical applications. *Br J Plast Surg*. 1987;40(2):113-141.

2. Iida O, Nishii S, Uematsu M, et al. Importance of the angiosome concept for endovascular therapy in patients with critical limb ischemia. *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv*. 2010;75(5):830-836.

3. Alexandrescu VA, Huleihel M, G. Philips Y, et al. Selective primary angioplasty following an angiosome model of reperfusion in the treatment of Wagner 1-4 diabetic foot lesions: practice in a multidisciplinary diabetic limb service. *J Endovasc Ther*. 2008;15(5):580-593.

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