It is widely known that Time is Muscle in an MI patient, and Time is Brain in a CVA patient. What is not well known is that for a patient with diabetes and a lower extremity ulcer, days or weeks may mean the difference in saving that toe, foot, leg, or life. These patients cannot afford to fall through the cracks. Remember—Time is Tissue in Diabetic Foot Ulcers!

If the patient has underlying infection and / or ischemia it is even more critical that the treatment begin early. However, these processes may be occult, making diagnosis and treatment even more difficult.

Did you know that if a Diabetic Foot Ulcer has not healed by 50% in 30 days, it would likely never heal? These patients often have significant complications before ever bringing the problem to a health care provider.

Our Diabetic Limb Salvage (DLS) Program is a collaborative effort, which identifies at risk patients when they enter our health system and unifies diagnostic and therapeutic measures for the best outcome for the patient.
The inpatient component involves screening for underlying complications, as well as treating the acute issues, including revascularization, infection treatment and surgical management of the diabetic limb as needed. Detailed follow up after hospital discharge with appropriate specialists ensures the patient has all aspects of their disease addressed.

The outpatient component starts either in the ED or as a referral to the Oklahoma Wound Center (OWC). The Center serves as the hub of the program following the patient closely. Advanced healing modalities are utilized when indicated such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, negative pressure wound therapy, casting, and biologic alternative tissue grafts.

Our DLS nurse navigator assists the patient as they proceed through the program from hospitalization to the outpatient phase until final healing. She helps coordinate the treatment plans of the different specialists.

Our team has committed to making a difference in the outcomes for these patients. We are literally WAGING A WAR ON DIABETIC WOUNDS!

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