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## Critique of Journal Papers

According to the study carried out by Desalu et al. (2011, 63), in Nigeria to find out knowledge and practice among patients in three tertiary hospitals, it is apparent that there are low knowledge and awareness on diabetic foot care. The study finds out that most of the study participants with low knowledge of diabetic foot care are the ones mainly with poor practices. Most of the participants with low knowledge level are illiterate, and this is attributed to the challenge affecting the nation. Therefore, the outcome of the study shows that there is the need for creating awareness among diabetic patients with foot ulcers. In the study, learned patients are seen to have the ability to access information on how to practice proper foot care.

According to the meta-analysis study carried out by Chen et al. (2018), it is established that people with adequate literacy are in the position of experiencing fewer outcomes of the diabetic foot as compared to those with low health literacy (Chen et al., 2018, 5). The study associates literacy with good practice on diabetic foot care. This study proves the findings of Desalu et al. (2011, 64), where it is established that learned people were found to practice proper care for their diabetic foot condition. Therefore, it is correct to say that literacy level corresponds directly with the level of knowledge on foot care practices.

Rocha et al. (2005, 20) carried out a study in Brazil to assess the knowledge and specific behaviors of diabetic patients towards foot care condition. The study found out that most of the participants did not have the knowledge or an understanding regarding the risks associated with poor foot care practices. The research established that despite the knowledge level of some participants, there was no direct correlation towards their practices and actions towards prevention of the diabetic foot condition. These results oppose the findings of Chen et al. (2005, 7), in their meta-analysis study which found that the level of literacy of patients directly reflects

on their practices and behavior towards diabetic foot care. This study concludes that there is the need for healthcare professionals to design proper educational interventions that can instill awareness and the spirit of proper foot care practices among diabetic patients with foot ulcers.

Fan et al. (2016) carried out a pilot study to investigate the effects of educational intervention on diabetic patients with foot ulcers condition. The study established that foot self-care educational interventions were of great impact on the patients' practices. With adequate knowledge and awareness on foot care practices, the participants showed positive results. The study concludes that educational interventions are paramount to reducing the risk of foot ulceration (Fan et al., 2016, 639). According to Chen et al. (2005, 6), it is a clear indication that the level of knowledge and awareness among patient directly correlates with proper foot care practices among patients with diabetic foot ulcer condition. However, it is possible that the outcomes of the study were due to the follow up by the researchers. This is evident in the survey conducted by Rocha et al. (2015, 20), where they indicate that despite the level of knowledge in patients with foot ulcers, they do not fully practice proper foot care.

Another study by Shrestha et al. (2017, n.p) on foot care knowledge and practices among patients with diabetes in Tribhuvan University Hospital indicated that literacy level is directly proportional to the foot care practices by the individual. The study found out poor knowledge and practices are associated with illiteracy (Shrestha et al., 2017, 168). These study findings are similar to those found by Desalu et al. (2011, 63) in Nigeria.

According to Schmidt, Wrobel, and Holmes (2017, 3), it is established that majority of medical care providers did not have adequate knowledge about the foot ulcer condition. These findings can be attributed to the poor practices among patients who attend clinics. If the physicians have inadequate knowledge about the condition, it is most likely they will not educate

their patients about proper foot care practices. These study findings correlate with those of Chiwanga and Njelekela (2015, 6), where they established a high prevalence in diabetic foot among the patients who were attending public clinics in Tanzania. Therefore, there is the need for proper education among patients and physicians to enable excellent knowledge and awareness about the rare foot condition.

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