Evaluating the Risks of Above-Knee Amputation in Veterans Following Below-Knee Amputation

Transtibial below-knee amputation (BKA) is associated with significant morbidity.

What are the cumulative probability of and risk factors for conversion to above-knee amputation (AKA) within 5 years of BKA?

At 5 years, the cumulative probability of:

- AKA conversion: 15.4%
- Death: 47.7%

Factors increasing the risk of AKA conversion:

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Previous myocardial infarction
- Urgent operation
- Peripheral vascular disease

BKA carries a high risk of conversion to AKA; early diagnosis and comprehensive surveillance of vasculopathic patients undergoing BKA are vital to ensure their well-being.

Mortality and Conversion to Transtibial Amputation After Transtibial Amputation in the Veterans Affairs Health System

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