

## Fewer Legs Lost To PAD

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A significant drop in the numbers of lower extremity amputations among patients with peripheral artery disease has occurred since 2000, but wide geographic differences in this practice persist, a national study of Medicare recipients found.

Between 2000 and 2008, the rate of amputation throughout the country declined from 7,258 to 5,790 per 100,000 ( $P < 0.001$ ), according to W. Schuyler Jones, MD, and colleagues from Duke University.

Yet the rates ranged from 8,400 per 100,000 patients living in the Southeastern area of the country to 5,500 per 100,000 in the Mountain states, the researchers reported online in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

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