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Guidelines

2017 ESC Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial diseases, in collaboration with the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) Summary of the document prepared by the Czech Society of Cardiology and the Czech Society of Angiology[☆]

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1. Preamble

Guidelines summarize and evaluate available evidence, aiming to assist health professionals to select the best strategies in an individual with a given condition.

The level of evidence and the strength of recommendation are outlined in [Tables 1 and 2](#).

2. Introduction

Coronary and peripheral arterial diseases mostly share the same aetiology and risk factors. In this document, the term 'peripheral arterial diseases' (PADs) encompasses all arterial

diseases except coronary arteries and aorta-lower extremity artery disease (LEAD), diseases of the carotid and vertebral (their extracranial segments), upper extremities, mesenteric, and renal arteries. The authors address only PADs secondary to atherosclerosis.

Table 2 – Levels of evidence.

Level of evidence A	Data derived from multiple randomized clinical trials or meta-analyses.
Level of evidence B	Data derived from a single randomized clinical trial or large non-randomized studies.
Level of evidence C	Consensus of opinion of the experts and/or small studies, retrospective studies, registries.

Table 1 – Classes of recommendations.

Classes of recommendations	Definition	Suggested wording to use
Class I	Evidence and/or general agreement that a given treatment or procedure is beneficial, useful, effective.	Is recommended/is indicated
Class II	Conflicting evidence and/or divergence of opinion about the usefulness/efficacy of the given treatment or procedure.	
Class IIa	Weight of evidence/opinion is in favour of usefulness/efficacy.	Should be considered
Class IIb	Usefulness/efficacy is less well established by evidence/opinion.	May be considered
Class III	Evidence or general agreement that the given treatment or procedure is not useful/effective, and in some cases may be harmful.	Is not recommended

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