UK study finds new day-case surgical procedure accelerates effective healing, reduces recurrence and amputation rates, and cuts healthcare costs by 88% compared to conservative care. Performing a simple, inexpensive surgical procedure for diabetic foot ulcers greatly reduces healing time, amputation rates. The preliminary study, being presented at the annual meeting of the American Diabetes Association, demonstrates the potential for proactive, simple surgical procedures to improve outcomes for patients with diabetic foot ulcers.

The study, led by researchers at the University of Cambridge and the Royal Free Hospital in London, examined the impact of a day-case surgical procedure on patients with diabetic foot ulcers. The procedure involves the use of a specially designed surgical knife to debride the ulcer and remove any necrotic tissue. The study included 120 patients with diabetic foot ulcers, who were randomly assigned to either the day-case procedure or conservative care.

Results showed that patients who underwent the day-case procedure had significantly shorter healing times and a lower risk of amputation compared to those who received conservative care. The day-case procedure was associated with a 50% reduction in amputation risk and a 70% reduction in healing time compared to the control group. The study also found that the procedure was cost-effective, with a cost-saving of £1,500 per patient compared to conservative care.

Commenting on the findings, lead author Dr. Ian Mathers, a consultant in vascular surgery at the Royal Free Hospital, said: "These results suggest that a simple, inexpensive surgical procedure can significantly improve outcomes for patients with diabetic foot ulcers. By reducing the risk of amputation and accelerating healing, this procedure has the potential to improve the quality of life for these patients and reduce healthcare costs."