

# Podiatry, Diabetes, and COVID-19

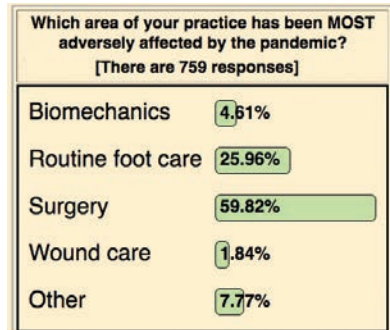
BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

This year has seen the worst pandemic in over one hundred years. COVID-19 has infected over 7,000,000 Americans and killed over 200,000 of us. A large percentage of the deceased have been people with co-morbidities such as diabetes, heart and lung conditions, and obesity. Most businesses, including medical offices, have been severely impacted, and while we hope the worst is over, we still brace for the possibility of a dreaded “second wave” while anxiously awaiting a successful



vaccine to end this evil scourge.

Looking back at this crisis, it's important to note some lessons learned. Of particular note, a *PM News* Quick Poll in early July found that while the most adversely affected area of podiatry was surgery, the least affected area was wound care. This is because while foot and ankle surgery can be categorized as elective, diabetic wound care is deemed essential.



This is *Podiatry Management's* 26th annual diabetes issue, so these findings are not surprising to us. This is an area in which podiatrists fit in best in the team approach to treating an insidious disease which continues to increase every year. While you don't need to specialize in the diabetic foot to be successful, it's important to incorporate some aspect of diabetic care in your practice. We encourage you to read the many diabetes-related articles in this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Barry H. Block D.P.M.*

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