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ARTERIOGRAPHIC PATTERNS OF LOWER LIMB ISCHAEMIA IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCE

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Arteriographic data of 115 patients with lower limb ischaemia seen during the period July '68-Aug. '76 are reviewed. 92 bilateral and 23 unilateral femorol arteriograms were done. In 6 patients repeat arteriograms were done several months or years later.

The commonest site of obstruction was found to be the superficial femoro-popliteal segment with the majority occurring in the vicinity of the adductor hiatus. Several patients had disease at multiple sites.

The problems involved in classification of these patients on the basis of radiological appearances are discussed. Subsequent clinical and histological correlations were done in some. Clinico-arteriographic correlations to assess the reliability of pulse examination revealed that the popliteal pulse examination was an unreliable index of patency. Narrowing of the popliteal artery, its retrograde filling by collaterals and human error accounted for the discrepancy.