

A Patient's Guide to the SensiLase® Studycast System:

Two Simple Tests to Measure Blood Flow and Circulatory Health / Peripheral Arterial Disease

What is P.A.D.?

It stands for Peripheral Arterial Disease. People develop P.A.D. when the arteries in their legs become narrowed or clogged with fatty deposits, or plaque. Enough plaque causes the arteries to harden and narrow – your doctor calls this “atherosclerosis”. This situation causes blood flow to the legs and feet to slow down. P.A.D. occurs most often in the arteries in the legs, but it can affect other arteries that carry blood outside the heart. This includes arteries that go to your heart, arms, brain, kidneys and stomach. All of these are serious -- but know that P.A.D. can be treated by making lifestyle changes, taking medicines, or having surgery. You can live with P.A.D.

Testing for P.A.D with the SensiLase Studycast System

If P.A.D. is left undiagnosed and untreated, it can lead to loss of sensation in the feet, open sores from lack of blood flow and leg amputations. People with P.A.D. also have a much higher risk for a heart attack or stroke. Increasingly, people with Diabetes are finding that they also have P.A.D. When these two diseases are combined, P.A.D. is more difficult to diagnose.

The SensiLase System is designed specifically to assess blood flow in the legs and feet for patients with P.A.D. and Diabetes. The SensiLase device is an automated system that performs two separate tests. Combined, these two tests are highly effective in determining if a person has P.A.D. and if so, its severity. Once a patient is tested and if diagnosed with P.A.D. a physician can then develop the optimal treatment plan.

These tests are typically painless, requiring only minutes to complete.



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The SensiLase System's Two Tests:

1. The Skin Perfusion Pressure (SPP) Test

The SPP test measures blood flow to the tiny vessels in the feet. When P.A.D. is present it will diminish blood flow to the feet. This test may also be called a measurement of reactive hyperemia by your physician as it is similar to taking a blood pressure measurement in that a pressure cuff is used to briefly stop blood flow in these small vessels. A small sensor is placed under the cuff and determines when the blood is flowing in these tiny vessels while pressure is released from the cuff. The SPP test is administered while the patient lies flat and relaxed on his/her back.

When a patient with diabetes has P.A.D., special care must be taken. Diabetes causes deterioration of tiny capillary vessels and arteries become hardened in a different way. This condition makes other tests that only assess larger vessels much less reliable in diagnosing P.A.D. The SPP test can be performed in about 5-7 minutes.

2. The Pulse Volume Recording (PVR) Test

The PVR test uses the same pressure cuff as the SPP test. With the PVR test the cuff is inflated. Each pulse produces small changes in the circumference of the leg under the cuff. These changes are measured and produce a print out tracing. A physician can view this tracing and determine if flow is normal or diminished. The PVR test can also be used to pinpoint where P.A.D. is located in your leg or foot. The PVR test can be completed in a minute or so.

SensiLase Studycast

After the completion of the test, your doctor can touch a button and your test result is automatically sent to a specialist physician to read and interpret. Results are routed back to your doctor for review. SensiLase Studycast is an efficient way to get you on the road to recovery from P.A.D. as soon as possible.