

Table 4.1. Impact scores for effects of foot surgery

Risk level	Expectation of event: sequela or complication	Features of risk
1	Expected frequently	Features are short-lived and do not involve significant interventions
2	Expected but less frequently	May remain over 3–12 months and then disappear slowly
3	Not expected, but could happen; borderline sequela but <i>complication may arise</i>	May have consequences. Longer treatment times and possible surgery may be required.
4	Not expected, low chance of occurring – always known as a <i>complication</i>	Consequences for function and mobility, some permanent loss possible. Usually containable, but also usually requires further surgery.
5	Difficult to predict, very low likelihood of arising – serious <i>complication</i>	Direct effect on life, possible death, hospitalisation with attendant secondary problems

Risks – being aware before the event

Now that consent has been explained in broad terms you must appreciate the risks that can arise in the context of invasive treatment. Modern surgery limits risk by having a process governed by professional bodies and the World Health Organization that we call WHO checks. It should not be possible to reach theatre without numerous checks being made. These may seem tedious but they are designed to protect patients.

Example of questions:

- Has your consent been signed?
- Do you know what you are having done?
- Who will care for you afterwards as you cannot drive? The carer has to be an adult.
- Are you using a taxi or is someone driving you home? Public transport is unacceptable.
- Anaesthetic questions (past experience)

¹⁹ Impact scores were designed as part of the PASCUM-10 database and audit tool and promoted as Negative Performance Indicators initially. The latest version is found within PASCUM-10 Invasive Domain Guide User Guide, version 1.04; December 2014. ©College of Podiatry: see www.pascom-10.com