



AOFAS Database Study Request Policies and Procedures

Approved by the AOFAS Board on November 11, 2022

I. Eligibility

In order for a study proposal to be eligible for submission, the applicant must be an active AOFAS member in good standing and be listed as the Principal Investigator for the investigation. (Source: [“Policy and Procedures for AOFAS Research Collaboration Program - October 2020”](#), page 9, Appendix I, Item C)

Clinicians who contributed the bulk of patients to the Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Registry (OFAR) database have initial priority to contribute study requests prior to the official invitation for study submission, but all active AOFAS members and OFAR industry partners will thereafter be invited to submit study requests.

The data analyst analyzes the data for study applicants and provides the results directly to the study applicant. Raw data will NEVER be provided to study applicants whether they are AOFAS members or third parties.

Study applicants must fill out the [application form](#) in the AOFAS Research Request website for their studies to be reviewed and approved.

II. Data Elements

OFAR data available for analysis is listed below:

Summary of procedures		
	Freq	%
Group 1		
Ankle Arthritis	83	10.9%
Ankle Instability	81	10.6%
Ankle Impingement	106	13.9%
Hindfoot Arthritis	26	3.4%
Midfoot Arthropathy	24	3.2%
Osteochondral Lesion of Talus	47	6.2%
Tarsal Tunnel Syndrome	12	1.6%
Group 2		
Bunionette Deformity	9	1.2%
Hallux Rigidus	47	6.2%
Hallux Valgus	72	9.5%
5th Metatarsal Fracture	6	0.8%
Lisfranc Injury	11	1.4%
Lesser Metatarsal/Toe Conditions	56	7.4%
Sesamoiditis/Sesamoid Fracture	3	0.4%
Group 3		
Achilles Tendinopathy	37	4.9%
Achilles Tendon Rupture	32	4.2%
Cavovarus Foot/Dropfoot	15	2.0%
Flatfoot Deformity/PTTD	28	3.7%
Plantar Fasciitis	20	2.6%
Peroneal/Tibialis Anterior/EHL Conditions	49	6.4%
Equinus Contracture	67	8.8%
Group 4		
Ankle Fracture/Syndesmotic Injury	90	11.8%
Calcaneus Fracture	13	1.7%
Talus Fracture	7	0.9%
Group 5		
Painful Hardware	46	6.0%
Infection/Ulceration/Necrosis/Wound	19	2.5%
Other Fractures/Compartment Syndrome	21	2.8%
Non-Op		
Non-Operative Treatment	43	5.7%

The fee for a study application is \$200. That fee goes to the data analyst for the first 4 hours of data analysis. Additional data analysis will require a \$50 per hour fee, which will be paid by the study applicant to release the analysis. Only the analysis output will be sent to the requesting study team. The raw data in its original form is owned by the AOFAS and will not be released.

III. When

Beginning in February 2023, AOFAS members and industry supporters may submit an application form to use the OFAR dataset. Priority will be given to contributors to the OFAR database.

IV. How to Apply

All study applicants are required to fill out the application form located on the [AOFAS website](#).

V. Duplicate Studies

If there are study applications that have similar or overlapping topics, reviewers are required to notify applicants of the overlap. Applicants will be given the option to combine their studies and discuss who will pay for the application fee and the data analyst's per hour charge.

VI. Fees

\$200 = application fee; non-refundable; to be paid when application fee is submitted (The \$200 fee goes to the data analyst's first 4 hours of data analysis charge.)

\$50 = per hour fee for the data analyst beyond the initial 4 hours

Fees must be fully paid before the data analyst provides results to the study applicant.

VII. Timeline

Project proposals will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, and decisions will require approval by designees of the Research Council and/or AOFAS Board of Directors, as deemed appropriate. All decisions are final. (Source: [“Policy and Procedures for AOFAS Research Collaboration Program - October 2020”](#), page 9, Appendix I, Item F)

Quarter 1: January 1 through March 31
Deadline March 31
Committee review by May 30

Quarter 2: April 1 through June 30
Deadline June 30
Committee review by August 29

Quarter 3: July 1 through September 30
Deadline September 30
Committee review by November 29

Quarter 4: October 1 through December 31
Deadline December 31
Committee review by February 28