How patients (and their medical doctors) should be aware of unnecessary tests and procedures on their veins and arteries. Such procedural overuse can harm patients and increase healthcare costs.

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I think that such procedural overuse can harm patients and increase healthcare costs!

How patients (and their medical doctors) should be aware of unnecessary tests and procedures on their veins and arteries?

"From 1999 to 2008, as Medicare reduced reimbursement for many cardiology services, one study found that the number of Medicare claims for echocardiograms increased by 90 percent. Peripheral vascular ultrasound tests nearly tripled."
Most over used treatment

Screenings???

Our next President won't do it!

We have been silent for too long!
How to stop overuse

- First don’t do it no matter the financial temptation
- Second, don’t do it just to say you can
- Don’t do it if there is insufficient supporting information
- Then
  - Inform patients about alternatives
  - Inform patients about the scams that are out there
  - Let them know about Choosing Wisely

An educated consumer is my best customer

Its up to all of us

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Society for Vascular Surgery</td>
<td>Avoid use of ultrason for routine surveillance of carotid arteries in the asymptomatic healthy population at any time.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Avoid interventions (including surgical ligation, angioplasty, angioplasty or stent) as a first line of treatment for most patients with intermittent claudication.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Avoid use of RBC filters as primary prevention of pulmonary embolism in the absence of an extremity clot or prior pulmonary embolism.</td>
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<td>Avoid routine ultrasound and fluoroscopy evaluations of well-functioning dialysis access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society for Vascular Surgery</td>
<td>Avoid routine venous ultrason tests for patients with asymptomatic lower extremities.</td>
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