Vascular Surgery Is A Separate Independent Specialty In The UK And Most Of Europe: How Has The European Vascular Surgery Board Benefitted Patients And Vascular Surgeons?

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What has the UEMS SBVS ever done for us?

Disclosures

• None relevant to this talk
• Consultant for Cook Medical, Covidien & LeMaitre Vascular.

Role of UEMS

• Represent profession in the EU
• Harmonise training across Europe
• Ensuring minimum standards
• Facilitating free movement of employment
• ASSURING QUALITY

Tools

• FEBVS Exam
• CME Accreditation
• Define Curriculum
• Setting Training Programme Requirements
• SETTING STANDARDS = ASSURING QUALITY
UEMS Structure

- UEMS → National Medical Associations
  - Sections → Specialities
  - Divisions / Boards → Sub-specialities

Key Steps

- 1958 – UEMS founded
- 1963 – UEMS Section of Surgery
- 1992 – UEMS Division of Vascular Surgery
- 2004 – UEMS Section of Vascular Surgery

Natural drivers for specialisation

- Expansion of knowledge
- Time restrictions/training
- Reputation
- !! Expertise => quality => improved outcome
  (e.g. AAA, peripheral bypass)

Holt et al, BJNS 2012
Moxey et al, Ann Surg 2012

Independent
Natural drivers for specialisation

- Expansion of knowledge
- Time restrictions/training
- Reputation
- !! Expertise => quality => improved outcome (e.g. AAA, peripheral bypass)

Independency ..persisting trend!
VASCUNET 2008

Advantages of Speciality status in UK.

- Bespoke training programme & we control it — started 2013, 1st CCTs due 2019
- — avoid irrelevant placements — e.g breast
- — include more relevant training — e.g. IR, U/S
- • Own exam – FRCS(vasc)
• Better able to represent VS’s interests.
• Move from “Gen surgeon with interest in” to “Vascular and Endovascular Specialist”
• EXPERTISE = ASSURING QUALITY

Place of the FEBVS

- European Standard – Gold Standard
- Compulsory Exit Exam
  - Netherlands
  - Switzerland
- Optional Elsewhere
- • Validated and Reliable Assessment
- • Thorough Quality Assurance

Does Size Matter?

Meta-analysis and systematic review of the relationship between surgeon annual caseload and mortality for elective open abdominal aortic aneurysm repairs

Baily L. Young, MA, MRCS; Peter J. E. Scott, MRCS; Ian D. Pollock, PhD.
Iain M. Lofthouse, MD, FRCS; and Mark H. Thompson, MD, FRCS.
London, United Kingdom

Meta-analysis of 14 RCTs
115,273 elective open AAA repairs

JVS 2007

Does Accreditation Matter?

The importance of surgeon volume and training in outcomes for vascular surgical procedures

William H. Pearce, MD, Michele A. Parker, RN, MS, Joe Ringlass, PhD,
Michael Ujjili, BS, and Larry M. Manheim, PhD.
Chicago, IL

31,172 x LEAB
45,744 x CEA
13,415 x AAA

JVS 1999
Upper Limb Bypass

Carotid Endarterectomy

Unruptured AAA

The Future

Vascular Surgery

The Future

Summary Answer

Vascular Surgery Is A Separate Independent Specialty In The UK And Most Of Europe: How Has The European Vascular Surgery Board Benefitted Patients And Vascular Surgeons?

• Vascular Surgery
  – Specialisation of practice
  – Specialisation of training
  – Centralisation in vascular centres

• FEBVS
  – Grow number of candidates
  – Grow the reputation and standing of the exam
  – Increase use of FEBVS as exit exam

Summary Answer

• UEMS Section & Board of Vascular Surgery the crucial enabler for monospeciality status.
• SBVS assures quality of training programmes
• SBVS assures quality of trained specialists
• This raises the reputation of the speciality
• Accreditation improves patient outcomes.
SPECIALISATION DRIVES QUALITY

Thank You
David McLain FEBVS