VASCULAR SURGEONS SHOULD BE COMPLETE VASCULAR DOCTORS

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CHANGES IN TREATMENT

- PATIENTS ARE OLDER
- MORE CO-MORBIDITIES
- MORE TREATMENT OPTIONS
- MORE PROVIDERS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY VASCULAR TEAM

VEITH SYMPOSIUM 2019
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

* Foster collaboration / collegiality
* Narrow focus on specific clinical problem
* Streamline care of complex patients
* Improve efficiency
* Reduce costs
* Improve outcomes
* Facilitate clinical research
* Marketing tool

ROLE OF VASCULAR SURGEON

75 Year Old Male
- Type B aortic dissection with renal malperfusion
- Multiple co-morbidities pre-op
  - Diabetes Mellitus
  - COPD
  - Hypertension
  - CAD
  - Frailty
  - Treated with TEVAR
  - Oliguric and somnolent post-op.

ROLE OF VASCULAR SURGEON

POST-OPERATIVE NEEDS

- Respiratory: Anesthesia, Critical Care, Resp
- Blood pressure: Critical Care, Cardiology
- Cardiac rhythm: Critical Care, Cardiology
- Diabetes: Endocrinology, Internal Medicine
- Renal: Nephrology
- Mental status: Neurology
- Frailty: Nutrition, Critical Care
- Daily care: Nursing
- Family: Social Work, Nursing, Ethics, Discharge

ROLE OF VASCULAR SURGEON

ACUTE POST-OPERATIVE CARE

- Are all those involved necessary?
- What is the surgeon’s role?
- Who knows the patient best?
- Who is in charge?
- Who makes decisions?
- Who speaks to family?

VASCULAR SURGERY DEFINED

- In many communities the vascular surgeon continues to be the specialist who manages all aspects of arterial, venous and lymphatic disease including problems that do not require operative or interventional treatment
- In many academic and large institutions, the care has become so fragmented that patients often cannot identify who performed their procedure or who is responsible for their care.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

- Vascular surgeons should participate and strive for leadership roles
- Should not delegate routine non-operative care to other team members / specialists
- Doing so defies the definition of vascular surgery and reduces the surgeon's role to that of proceduralist
- This has potential financial implications
- Could weaken the argument for an independent board of vascular surgery

VASCULAR SURGEONS

Should be complete vascular doctors and not just proceduralists: they should be knowledgeable in and manage all aspects of non-cardiac vascular care