Vascular Surgeons Are Essential To Our Health Care System: Why Are They Often Excluded From Administrative Decision Making And Resource Assignment

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No Disclosures

Vascular Surgery – what is our value?

We prevent strokes from carotid disease
We prevent amputations from PAD
We prevent deaths from aneurysms
We provide access for dialysis
We improve symptoms of venous insufficiency
We provide life-saving “bail-outs” in the OR for other surgeons
To the person needing us – we are invaluable

Vascular Surgery – what is our value?

$21 billion “industry” (2009)
Coffee exports, Timber, Fertility services, “Harry Potter”
Annual revenue of Starbucks Corporation

National health care costs of peripheral arterial disease in the Medicare population
Allen T Hsu1,2, Casey Hertzmann3, Robert J Towner1 and Beth A Vanag1

• 2001 (16 years ago!)
• $4.37 billion was spent on PAD-related treatment
• $3.87 billion from Medicare, 88% was for inpatient care
• 6.8% of the elderly Medicare population received treatment for PAD
• PAD-related costs accounted for approximately 2.3% of all Medicare Part A and B expenditures
• 3,000 Vascular Surgeons / 1,000,000 MDs = .3% physician workforce
Comparing costs to other conditions...

- $2.7B  cardiac dysrhythmias
- $3.9B  CHF
- $3.7B  cerebrovascular disease
- $4.37B  PAD

"Global Dynamics of Surgical and Interventional Cardiovascular Procedures, 2015-2022", Report #C500 (MedMarket Diligence, LLC)

Vascular Surgery – What is our value?

Prevalence of Intraoperative Vascular Surgery Assistance by Surgical Subspecialty

Vascular Surgery – Projected Growth: Demand for Full-Time Equivalent Physicians
And now the bad news

It is amazing that people who think we cannot afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, and medication, somehow think that we can afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, medication, and a government bureaucracy to administer it.” — Thomas Sowell

Top 5 Challenges in Current Practice

1. Not Enough Compensation
2. Time Management
3. Competition from Other Practitioners
4. Call Coverage
5. Cost of Overhead

Which one would you rather be?
Could this be you?

An SOS message from the trenches...
- Large multispecialty organization
- 10 million people in system
- 40 vascular surgeons
- 12 hospitals
- Survey to Vascular Surgeons – 95% response rate

Dissatisfaction with administrator response

Dissatisfaction with administrator response

Dissatisfaction with administrator response

SURVEY SAYS:
- 67%
- 26%
- 7%
Conclusions

- Vascular surgery is growing in importance in the healthcare system
- Vascular surgery is probably under-represented at many levels
- Vascular surgeons may be in favor of increased representation and reorganization of the specialty