



KEEPING YOU IN CIRCULATION

Geelong Vascular Service 2014



GEE LONG VASCULAR SERVICE IN PROFILE

Geelong Vascular Service is about to enter its 16th year of providing care to patients with arterial and venous disease in Geelong and the wider reaches of Victoria's South-West. Over this period we've enjoyed the support of many GPs with whom we have shared the vision of delivering quality and dedicated vascular surgery to their patients. It's been our aim to consistently keep pace with advances in the field, so that our patients can be assured of always having access to the best modern vascular therapy has to offer.



Aortic Aneurysms: Having introduced **endoluminal stent grafting of aortic aneurysms** to Geelong in 1999 as an alternative to open surgery for aneurysm repair, we now see this approach adopted as the standard of care in all centres around the World where dedicated vascular surgery is practiced. In our service, over the past 16 years, 77% of patients with abdominal aortic aneurysm have been treated by stent grafting, with a 30-day mortality of <1%. Open surgery is offered now only to those patients with an anatomical configuration that makes stent grafting unfeasible.

Carotid disease: Carotid surgery under local anaesthetic is offered as a means of providing for precise intraoperative cerebral monitoring. In Geelong we have treated over 650 patients by this approach with a periprocedural stroke and death rate of less than 1 %.

Minimally invasive treatment of lower limb arterial disease has long been our clinical and research interest. In most patients, now, arterial supply to the limbs can be improved by endovascular intervention; balloon angioplasty and intra-arterial stenting. The modern vascular surgeon carries the skill of angio-intervention in his bag of tricks. Having employed this technology in over 3,000 cases, we've been excited with the particular results achieved in recanalizing long segments of occluded femoral arteries with deployment of long stents to reperfuse an ischaemic leg, as an alternative to open surgical bypass grafting. 5-year follow-up of our patients represents one of the largest comparative series in the World and is awaiting publication.

Varicose veins: New to the frontier of Vascular Surgery is minimally invasive treatment of varicose veins. The practice of open venous surgery in hospital, performed under general anaesthetic and usually including deep groin dissection, has been abandoned in our service. It has been replaced with ambulatory outpatient treatment, comprising **endovenous laser ablation** of incompetent main-stem veins, **ultra-sound guided sclerotherapy**, **microphlebectomies**, and **visual microsclerotherapy**. This provides patients with walk-in walk-out therapy, less perioperative discomfort, less invasive and inherently safer therapy, and early return to normal activity. In treating over 1500 legs by this approach in the past 5 years, we have achieved primary closure rates of >99% and durable outcomes on medium term ultrasound follow-up. Our evaluation of this treatment is ongoing, but its found wide acceptance in the community of patients wanting treatment out of hospital, with no groin scar, and little disruption to their work / life balance.



GEELONG VASCULAR ULTRASOUND

Essential to us providing quality care is a demand for accurate non-invasive vascular assessment. Geelong Vascular Ultrasound was established as a dedicated Vascular Laboratory to achieve this aim. Staffed by dedicated Vascular Ultrasonographers, this service provides assessment of all patients for whom an opinion on management of arterial or venous disease is sought, assistance at minimally invasive venous therapy, follow-up after surgery for quality assurance, and ongoing disease surveillance. For GPs who use the service, reports are validated by a Vascular Specialist and a management plan devised on the basis of the findings. For pensioners, health-card holders and those patients who are included in one of our surveillance programs, all studies are bulk-billed. Surveillance study results are sent to each patient's GP. Specialist follow-up is only suggested if the study demonstrates a problem to be addressed. The clinic is committed to improving the quality of patient care and appreciates feedback on how this can be better achieved. All referrals for Vascular assessment are welcome.



DRESS TO COMPRESS: Wound assessment and stocking clinic.

Based at 1/43 Little Myers Street, Dress to Compress is our centre for providing wound assessment and treatment advice, coupled with correct fitting and supply of graduated compression stockings for management of limb oedema. Our specialised wound care nurses have a passion to provide direction on how lower limb ulcers that persist in the setting of underlying vascular disease might best be managed. Their role is to provide advice on care of the leg at risk, and its ulcer, to the GPs and community nurses who take on the day-to-day responsibility for ulcer dressings. Use of graduated compression is a vital component of therapy for limb oedema, particularly where it occurs in the setting of venous thrombosis or incompetence. Compliance with stocking wear requires good patient education, precise garment fitting, and regular follow-up. Our compression therapists excel in this role. It is well recognised that 85% of leg ulcers that fail to heal over a 3 month period have underlying arterial or venous disease. It is in treating this through arterial intervention, or venous ablation, that we are able to assist you in managing your patient's leg ulcers.



At Geelong Vascular Service we remain committed to providing quality care to patients with vascular disease and appreciate being able to share in this with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you always find us free to provide advice when it is needed, and open to change when you feel it is necessary.



From A/Prof David McClure and the team at GVS.

Appointments and all enquiries can be made by contacting
GEELONG VASCULAR SERVICE on 03 52290024

Further information is available on our website www.geelongvascular.com.au