

When Blood Takes a Detour: Understanding Vascular Disease

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Background

East Hospital, Perioperative Department has been growing their service lines to help ensure our community has the same resources that other areas of Columbus are able to offer. At the end of 2024, East Hospital started taking care of more patients with vascular disease. This is a service line that had been here about 5 years prior. Over that time, the department has grown and changed with new staff members in the preoperative and postoperative departments.

To best care for our patients, the pre and post operative staff wanted to learn more about these surgical cases. The staff collaborated with the surgeons and advanced practice providers to learn more. Education was also required for the staff regarding closure devices and



Recommendation and Next Steps

- Care should be personalized using the “guidelines as a starting point, since every patient is different and outcomes can vary from person to person.
- Physician’s preferences may change depending on the acuity and approach that is taken for the patient, so it is important to maintain open lines of communication with the providers.
- As new vascular surgeons come to East, it is important to work with them to understand their needs.
- Maintain education on a regular basis for new and current staff to encourage up to date and evidence-based care.
- Ensure leadership involvement for long term success of caring for our patients

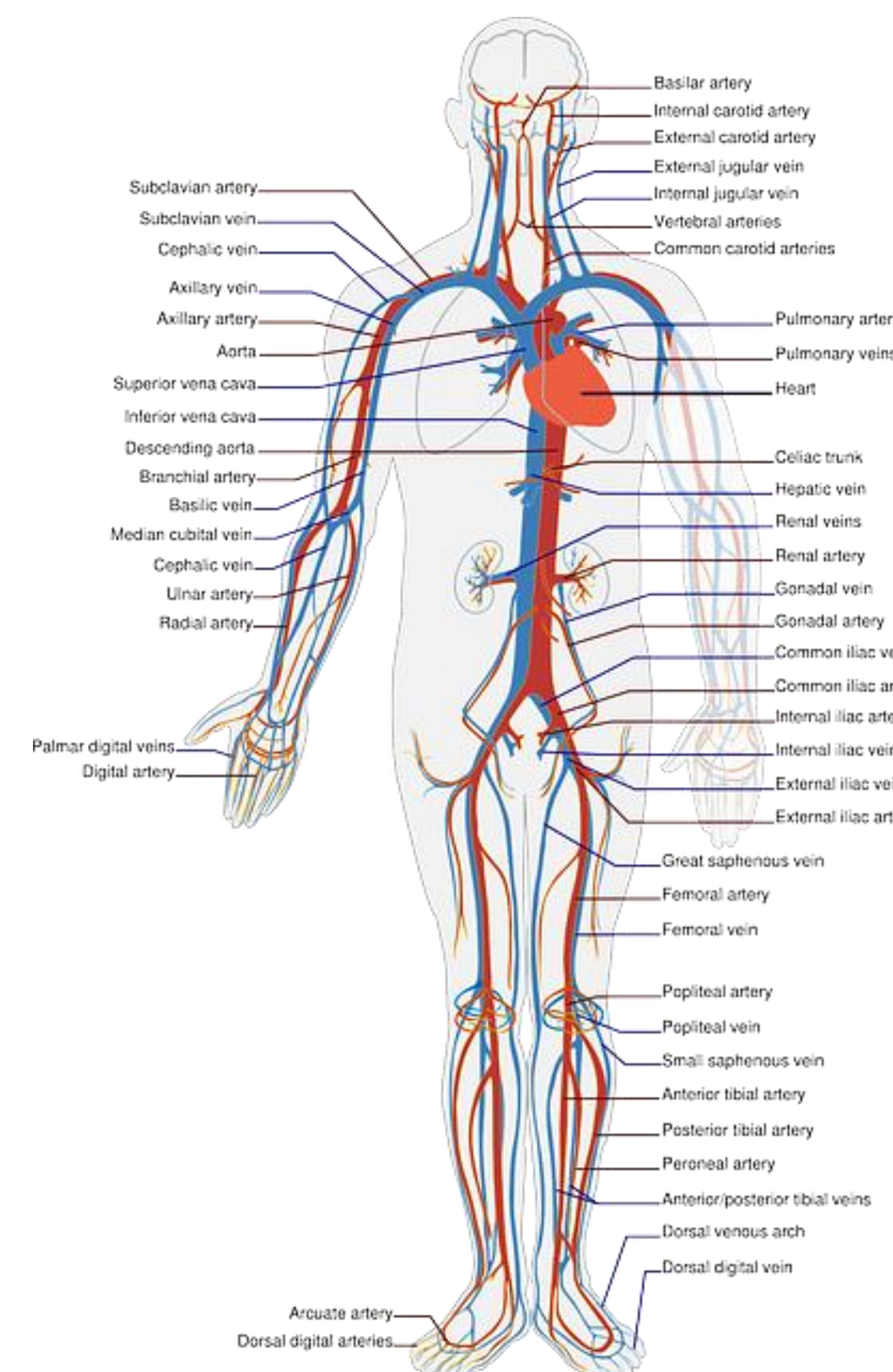
Lessons Learned

- Staff are receptive and willing to learn new information on how to provide the best care for their patients
- Patient care may change for the patient depending on physician’s clinical judgement and preferred approach
- Staff are familiar with the signs of stroke, however, they were not NIH Stroke Scale certified,, so it was important for staff to complete the certification as part of best practices.
- Being able to ask questions and communicate with the physicians and APP’s is paramount to patient care.



Collaboration

- Met with vascular surgeons to develop a generalized checklist for preoperative and postoperative patients undergoing different procedures
- Discussed the need for vascular resident or fellows to provide pre and post orders to reflect the surgeon’s requirements for both pre and postoperative care
- Reviewed articles and literature from ASPAN standards to help identify potential guidelines of care for these patients
- Collaborated with other staff members to ensure patients were properly optimized for surgery and help reduce the cancellation rate of the procedures.
- Received education from vendors on the different closure devices that we may see after the procedures to ensure appropriate care is delivered to the patients



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