Spotlight on:

Vascular Surgery

Overview

From AAMC Careers in Medicine >choose your specialty>Vascular Surgery

Vascular surgery is a subspecialty within general surgery that addresses the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the vascular tree, including arteries, veins, and lymphatic vessels, exclusive of those within the cranial cavity and the heart. The principle diseases treated involve those affecting the carotid arteries, the aorta, and those supplying the blood supply to the lower extremities, the kidneys, and the abdominal viscera. Common procedures performed include carotid endarterectomy, repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm, and revascularization of the lower extremities. Specialists in this discipline are also experts in performing and interpreting diagnostic studies including ultrasound and angiography. The subspecialty emphasizes minimally invasive treatment, including endovascular treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysm and for relief of obstruction of blood flow to organs and tissues by means of angioplasty and deployment of intravascular stents.

Why I Chose Vascular Surgery

By Adam H. Korayem, M.D., Ph.D., Vascular Surgery Resident, PGY-1

As vascular surgeons we take care of some of the sickest patients in medicine. There are few pathological processes that lead to such overwhelming disability as ischemia to an organ or tissue. A unique aspect of vascular surgery is that we perform open surgery and endovascular surgery. We are also vascular medicine specialists who manage chronic disease as much as we operate. The modern advancements in endovascular surgery are truly amazing. From a hole about the size of the tapered end of a chopstick we can repair aneurysms in the aorta and other vessels; stent nearly blocked carotid arteries, treat peripheral vascular disease, control bleeding of major vessels as well as an unlimited array of other interventions. I love being in the operating room but I also love developing long lasting relationships with patients. As a vascular surgeon I get to do both. There’s no question that the training can be intense but the rewards far outweigh the challenges of residency.
**Patient Profile**

5 most frequently encountered conditions
1. Peripheral vascular disease
2. Abdominal aortic aneurysms
3. Carotid disease
4. Venous disease/insufficiency
5. Dialysis access

**Length of training**

5-7 years depending on which type of program (integrated or independent) that you pursue.

**Median Salary**

$466,895

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Information about Vascular Surgery from AAMC Careers in Medicine

**Subspecialty of**
Surgery-General

**Setting**
58% of physicians in this specialty practice in an urban setting at:
- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching
3% of physicians in this specialty practice in a rural setting at:
- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

**Societies, Boards, and Other Organizations**
American Association for Vascular Surgery and the Society for Vascular Surgery
Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery
Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society for Vascular Surgery: Residents, Fellows and Students

**Publications**
Journal of Vascular Surgery
European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
Annals of Vascular Surgery
Cardiovascular Surgery