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Vascular Medicine: A ‘Primary’ Specialty

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Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal whose mission is to communicate clinical and bench research findings, with the goal of improving the quality of human health, the care of the individual patient, and the care of populations.
Patients who suffer from vascular diseases present to their primary care physicians with an assortment of some of the most complex signs and symptoms. Continued advances in the diagnosis and treatment strategies at hand will undoubtedly result in improved lifestyle and prolonged survival for many. In this special themed issue of *Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews*, for which I had the honor to serve as guest editor, our contributing authors address some of the latest advances in vascular medicine, thereby providing an educational and well-rounded snapshot of the current state of this important and ever-evolving field.

Not all patients should be initially subjected to expensive imaging tests such as computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging. Duplex ultrasound has proved an indispensible and cheaper diagnostic tool that is readily available to all. In this issue, Fish et al. provide a comprehensive review of its current role not only for initial diagnosis, but also for surveillance of patients who have undergone complex revascularization procedures.1

Liver transplantation is a common surgical procedure that can be complicated by stenosis at the hepatic arterial anastomosis. This potentially life-threatening condition can now be safely treated with low-profile guidewires and stent delivery catheters, obviating the need for difficult and high-risk open corrective surgery. On page 127, Parmar et al. describe in step-by-step detail how many tools developed for percutaneous coronary interventions also can be safely and effectively used in noncoronary vascular territories.4

One can clearly see the wide range of diseases, clinical presentations and anatomical regions that bridge the vascular sphere. Another serious health condition is aortic dissection, which mandates immediate diagnosis and treatment. In his review of changing paradigms in the treatment of acute type B aortic dissections, Dr. Eric Weiss discusses how newer endovascular treatment strategies are best used to optimize management.5 Likewise, novel oral anticoagulants are becoming popular management options for stroke prophylaxis in
atrial fibrillation, deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism treatment and prophylaxis; on page 139, Dr. Laith Alsayegh provides a comprehensive review of these new agents and helps sort out their benefits and best indications.6

In addition to comprehensive review articles addressing some of the latest innovations and options for diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases, this issue also features an original research study7 and accompanying editorial8 reporting the respective merits of bypass graft surgery and angioplasty using drug-eluting stents in treating high-risk patients with coronary artery disease, a contemporary topic of debate among interventional cardiology and cardiac surgeons.

As a vascular specialist, it is my hope this special issue will help enhance the care of the many patients who suffer from vascular diseases. It has been an honor to work with Editor-in-Chief Dennis Baumgardner and his support staff. We are deeply indebted to all who have so expertly contributed to this issue of Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews.

REFERENCES

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