



Sarah Green has completed this personal reflection on **07/09/2022**

Paper: Spring 2022 CPD Questions

Personal Reflection:

Paper 1 - Post Op surveillance and long term outcome after EVAR in patients with post op CTA with no abnormalities (respective Study)

DESCRIPTION - Retrospective study (1596 patients over 2007-2012) that aimed to look at the post op surveillance adherence following EVAR repair and patients survival and secondary interventions. The study concluded that a discontinued follow-up is not associated with poor outcomes for patients - raising the question - is EVAR surveillance necessary? Future studies would need to be conducted to decide what patients should have their surveillance imaging safely reduced.

EVALUATION - Interesting study which throws up more questions than answers. Why is surveillance necessary then? Is it indeed cost effective, especially in the NHS where resources are precious. If a problem/endoleak was detected - is it therefore beneficial for the patient to treat this?

ANALYSIS - The study looked at patients treated over 2007-2012 - EVAR devices have improved certainly within the past decade, therefore the data set would need updating to include contemporary EVAR devices. Perhaps by looking at the most modern devices and comparing the results to this study, the outcome may be slightly different - maybe not. The study also

CONCLUSION - More research needed in this area before an established surveillance programme is reduced, or stopped for certain patients - i.e. who are the patients it would benefit and why? Have the EVAR devices improved to such an extent that a surveillance programme is certainly not needed. Would the nature and location of the patients initial aneurysm have any sway on the likelihood of them getting EVAR complications in the future - would there be a benefit for them specifically?

ACTION PLAN - Be aware of this research but look out for future research in this area - have the questions in the conclusion above already been answered?

Paper 2 - EVAR Follow-up with Ultrasound superb microvascular imaging compared to CEUS and CTA

DESCRIPTION - This study evaluated the usefulness of SMI ultrasound imaging to CEUS, and compared this the CTA as a reference for detecting type 11 endoleaks. The study found that SMI and CEUS imaging were concordant when detecting type 11 endoleaks (CTA originally detected 54 type 11 endoleaks - SMI and CEUA both correctly identified 49 of these endoleaks). The study concludes that SMI can be proposed as a valid and less invasive technology to CTA and CEUS for detecting endoleaks after EVAR repair.

What about other types of endoleaks?? Only 119 patients were enrolled on the study - more would need to be included.