THE SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

**Felicity Woodgate** has completed this personal reflection on **08/08/2019**

**Paper:** Summer 2019 CPD Questions

**Personal Reflection:**

DESCRIPTION OF LEARNING: Review of two current literature papers entitled:
"The evidence based surgical anatomy of the popliteal artery and the variations in its branching patterns" and the second " Characterisation of tibial velocities by duplex ultrasound in severe peripheral arterial disease and controls"

EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS:
I personally found the first paper of more interest due to a recent case of popliteal entrapment syndrome that we have reviewed in clinic. It has helped support my diagnosis and improved my understanding of the variation in branching of the popliteal artery below and above the level of the knee joint. I had only really considered the cause of popliteal entrapment to be the positioning of the gastrocnemius muscle head and was unaware that variations of the popliteal artery could also contribute therefore improving my knowledge for future cases as I would be more likely now not only to focus on the patency and velocity of blood flow through the popliteal artery but also to pay more attention to the position of below knee branches. The second paper was of less interest to me and will potentially not have as much impact on my service user as these are more educational parameters and something we have not seen filter directly into clinical practice right away. They may have more impact in the future clinically as more data and evidence is published to build a more conclusive set of reference parameters however personally at the moment I feel there is not enough data to support this and my question would be ultimately how are these additional parameters going to change clinical management of the patient.

CONCLUSION/ACTION PLAN:
Further research into the impact these new tibial parameters may have on clinical decision making, and to try and read the other papers referenced in this paper to gain more of an understanding of their usefulness.